

February 9, 2011

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Local Environmental Health Directors, Supervisors and Coordinators

**FROM:** Wayne Jones, Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**THROUGH:** Ed Norman, Program Manager  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

**SUBJECT:** Administrative Rules 15A NCAC 18A .2800 and Approved Bottle Warming Methods in Child Care Centers

This memo is in reference to bottle warming procedures in child care centers and more specifically the use of crock-pots. Crock-pots **are not** approved as bottle warming equipment; therefore, they are prohibited for use in child care centers for such purpose.

Regardless of the method used, bottles must be warmed in an approved **child care kitchen** or **food preparation area**. In food preparation areas and kitchens, approved bottle warming methods include:

- Use of equipment manufactured specifically for bottle warming, provided it is used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions
- Bottles placed under running tap water or in container(s) of warm water
- Other methods approved on a case-by-case basis

The 'tempered' and 'burn hazard' water requirements in Rule .2815(e) do not apply to equipment manufactured specifically for bottle warming. If other bottle warming methods are used in food preparation areas, compliance with Rule .2815(e) is required.

For inspection and compliance purposes, the use of crock-pots is prohibited for bottle warming and non-compliant centers shall receive 4 demerits on item #9 of the grade sheet. In addition, if crock-pots, running tap water or containers of water are used to warm bottles in food preparation areas, water temperatures greater than 110°F up to 120°F are non-compliant and 4 demerits on item #16 shall be assessed, while water temperatures exceeding 120°F shall receive 6 demerits on item #17.

Please contact Ed Norman at (919) 715-3293 or Wayne Jones at 910-290-3047 with questions or comments.