



## Mecklenburg County Health Department

September 15, 2000

To: Sheila Nichols  
Ed Norman  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

From: Dennis Salmen

Re: Day Care kitchen sink requirements- Licensed for more than 30 children

Mecklenburg County has a number of day care facilities, licensed for more than 30 children, who cater in meals and who are electing to use multi-service utensils (e.g. sippy cups). In reviewing 15A NCAC 18A .2810(b)(2), **Specifications For Kitchens**, there is no category for day cares where no meals are prepared and multi-service articles are used. Thus, in order to determine what size (i.e. # of compartments) sink is needed, we have been referencing **how these articles are sanitized**, either manually or mechanical.

In most cases, these day cares are doing mechanical sanitizing where no reference is made as to what size sink is needed if dishmachines are used to sanitize. This is opposed to Section .2812(a), **Manual Cleaning and Sanitizing** where a 3-compartment sink is clearly required if manual sanitizing is being done on both utensils and equipment. No other reference to the number of sink compartments required appears in another section.

We need for your office to state how this 4<sup>th</sup> category (i.e. no meal preparation and multi-service use) should be interpreted under the rules as to minimum sink compartments (a two or three compartment).

I'd recommended that when the next re-write/rule revisions occur, that an additional category be added under .2810(b)(2), **Specifications For Kitchens** to account for the above situation. Also, it would seem that the term "meal" ought to be defined. We have had a number of day cares alleged that their meals are "snacks", thereby effecting which size kitchen sink is required. Unfortunately, the Division of Child Development doesn't define meals, but does follow the U.S. Department of Agriculture guide which classifies a meal as an event where at least 3 food groups are served.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
William G. Ross Jr., Secretary



January, 23 2001

**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Sheila Nichols., R.S., Regional Environmental Health Specialist  
Children's Environmental Health Branch

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

**SUBJECT:** Sink requirements for Child Care Centers licensed for 30 or more children

This memo is in response to your letter dated September 15, 2000, in which you asked about the number of sink compartments required in a Child Care Center licensed for 30 or more children with no meal preparation, the use of sippy cups, and a dishwashing machine.

This scenario is not clearly addressed under rule 15A NCAC 18A .2810 (Kitchen Specifications) or 15A NCAC 18A .2812 (Manual Cleaning and Sanitizing). Therefore, it is recommended that these centers have a two-compartment sink in addition to the dishwashing machine. If the dishwasher ever malfunctions, the center must use single service articles until it is repaired unless the center chooses to install a three-compartment sink, in which case multi-service articles (e.g., sippy cups) could still be used in the event of dishwasher malfunction.

A committee reviewing the Child Care Sanitation rules will address this issue in the near future. Thank you for your patience in this matter. If you have further comments or questions, please call me at (336) 973-8622 or Ed Norman at (919) 715-3293.



