

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTION

December 10, 1999

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Brandon Hamilton  
Johnston County Health Department

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Water Temperature at Can Wash Facilities

This response is in regards to your letter dated October 16, 1999 to Worth Heath concerning water temperature and child accessibility to canwash facilities in child care centers. Section .2830(b) of the Rules Governing the Sanitation of Child Care Centers addresses facilities for washing garbage cans (and mops) and requires "hot and cold running water". However, specific water temperature requirements are not mentioned. Section .2815(e) specifies hot water temperatures and addresses accessibility at various locations within child care centers, but does not specifically mention canwash facilities.

Given this somewhat incomplete information, it is our interpretation that the first sentence of .2815(e) should be applied in regards to canwash facilities. This sentence reads as follows, "Hot water heating equipment shall provide hot water at a minimum temperature of 130°F at the point of use when hot water is not used for sanitizing". Although this same rule indicates that tempered water (90° - 110°F) is required at lavatories accessible to children, it is our interpretation that the 130°F hot water requirement is more appropriate, since canwash facilities should not be accessible to children.

In addition, a grandfather clause in .2830(b) allows for other can cleaning facilities approved prior to July 1, 1991 if functioning properly (including those that do not meet the 130°F hot water requirement). However, six demerits should be marked on item #16 of the grade sheet for any canwash with hot water that is greater than 110°F and is accessible to children. If no canwash exists, then two demerits should be marked on item #48.

I hope this information has been helpful. Please contact me at (910) 296-2046 if you have any further questions.

Enclosure



JAMES B. HUNT JR.  
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