GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Health Division Reminds Food Business Operators of Licensing Requirements

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The Environmental Health Division is reminding all food business operators that a valid Food Business License issued by the Division is required for the lawful operation of any food establishment within the Virgin Islands.

Acting Deputy Chief Environmental Health Officer, Mrs. Shamelle Thomas, said the Food Business License confirms that an establishment has been registered, inspected, and has met the public health and food safety standards necessary to operate within the Territory.

"A Food Business License is not merely a document. It is an assurance to the public that a food establishment has satisfied the standards designed to protect consumer health and promote safe food handling practices," Mrs. Thomas stated.

The license is valid for one year from the date of issuance and must be displayed in a conspicuous location within the establishment at all times. Failure to display a valid Food Business License, or circumstances where the license has been removed, damaged, obscured, altered, or rendered illegible, constitutes a violation of the Public Health (Food Hygiene) Regulations, 1972, Part IX, Section 28.

Mrs. Thomas further advised that Environmental Health Officers routinely conduct inspections of food establishments throughout the Territory and will continue to monitor compliance with all applicable food safety and licensing requirements.

"Food business operators have a responsibility to maintain compliance with the Territory's public health regulations. Displaying a valid Food Business License demonstrates a commitment to food safety, regulatory compliance, and consumer confidence," she said.

Operators are encouraged to review their licensing status and ensure that their Food Business Licenses remain current.

Food Business operators whose licenses have been approved but not yet collected are urged to do so promptly. Licenses are available for collection at the Environmental Health Division office, located adjacent to the Red Cross building.

For additional information, persons may contact the Environmental Health Division at (284) 468-5110 or via email at ehd@gov.vg.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is committed to improving the health of the people of the Virgin Islands.

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