

Charlie Crist  
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Surgeon General

May 29, 2009

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.  
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4052 Bald Cypress Way  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

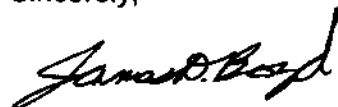
Dear Dr. Viamonte Ros:

Pursuant to Section 20.055(5)(g), *Florida Statutes*, our office is to update you on the status of corrective actions taken since December 15, 2008 when OPPAGA published its Report Number 08-67, *State Food Safety Programs Should Improve Performance and Financial Self-Sufficiency*. Management's assessment of the current status of corrective actions is included in the enclosed document.

At six months after publication, management reports they have initiated action on their corrective action plans made in response to recommendations from OPPAGA's report. One corrective action has been completed and three remain in process.

If I may answer any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



James D. Boyd, C.P.A., M.B.A.  
Inspector General

JDB/kir

Attachment

cc: Kathy DuBose, Staff Director  
Joint Legislative Auditing Committee  
Michael J. Bennett, C.I.A.  
Director of Auditing

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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# State of Findings

08-67

## State Food Safety Programs Should Improve Performance and Financial Self-Sufficiency

Number	Finding	Recommendation	Corrective Action Plan	Status of Finding
1	<p>The Department of Health does not post any inspection information on its website. As a result, citizens would need to contact their county health department or make a public records request for data on food safety in the facilities the department regulates, including hospitals, nursing homes, and schools.</p>	<p>We recommend that the Department of Health make more inspection data available to the public via the department's websites.</p>	<p>Develop reports reflecting facility name, inspection dates, and inspection outcome. Build webpage to host data and post data, updating monthly.</p>	<p>Completed - inspection result information is being posted at this website: <a href="http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/community/food/index.html">www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/community/food/index.html</a></p>
2	<p>The Department of Health does not post any inspection information on its website. As a result, citizens would need to contact their county health department or make a public records request for data on food safety in the facilities the department regulates, including hospitals, nursing homes, and schools.</p>	<p>We recommend that the agency expedite efforts to provide electronic inspection results.</p>	<p>Continue to support the department's electronic inspection effort. Expand electronic inspection technology as resources permit</p>	<p>Eight county health departments have been trained and are now using the electronic inspection technology, while one other county health department is completing installation and awaiting training.</p> <p>Governance approval for statewide implementation is pending due to modifications to the original request made by the previous project manager. Active Ink software standardization is dependent upon review by the Tallahassee Security Team.</p>
3	<p>The departments should take additional steps to ensure that their food safety programs become financially self-sufficient.</p>	<p>We recommend that the Department of Health actively pursue its current proposals to redistribute inspection workload and increase program revenues.</p>	<p>Adjust fees with a goal of programmatic self-sufficiency, through three rule amendments spread over five years.</p> <p>Reviews are also underway to evaluate proposals to redistribute inspection workloads.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The first rule amendment has been completed. New fees became effective 4-01-09. They are expected to generate approximately \$900,000 in revenue. See attached copy of 64E-11.013.</li><li>2. An evaluation of the inspection workload has been completed by the Bureau's lead food program manager. However, the evaluation needs to be reviewed by and discussed with other food program staff before it is submitted to the Bureau Chief and Division Director for comment and approval. July 1, 2009 remains our target date for completing this process.</li></ol>

Number	Finding	Recommendation	Corrective Action Plan	Status of Finding
4	<p>The departments should take additional steps to ensure that their food safety programs become financially self-sufficient.</p>	<p>We recommend that the Department of Health consider increasing revenues by raising fees for follow-up inspections.</p>	<p>A current rule amendment proposes increasing the reinspection fee.</p>	<p>The first rule amendment has been completed. New fees became effective 4-01-09, including an increased re-inspection fee. The total from all increased fees are expected to generate approximately \$900,000 in revenue. See attached copy of 64E-11.013.</p> <p>The Bureau will review the food program costs in comparison to its revenue from fees in the mid to latter part of 2010 to determine how much the second round of fee increases should be.</p>