



## Changes to Inspection Fines for Restaurants

### *What You Need to Know*

Two changes to restaurant fines take effect starting with inspections on July 18, 2014.

#### **Fixed Fines**

Restaurants will now pay set fines for violations. This means that when restaurants receive a violation, the fine will no longer be decided by a hearing examiner at the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH) Health Tribunal. Instead, the hearing examiner will only decide whether to uphold the violation. If the violation is upheld, the restaurant will owe the fine listed for that violation in the [fixed fine schedule](#).

#### **New Fine Waiver for Sanitary Violations**

Restaurants will pay no fines if **ALL** of the following conditions apply:

- The inspection was an initial inspection.
- The violation upheld was a sanitary violation (a violation that received points).
- The total score after the Health Tribunal hearing was less than 14 points.

The fine waiver only applies to sanitary violations. Restaurants will still have to pay fines for non-sanitary violations (those without points), such as using trans fat, violating the Smoke-Free Air Act, failing to post required signs or operating with an expired permit.

If you have questions about these changes, contact the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Food Safety at 646-632-6001 or [infobfscs@health.nyc.gov](mailto:infobfscs@health.nyc.gov).

