Powell River Action Centre Society Food Bank (PRAC Food Bank)
Food Operations and Safety
Policy 2024

Operational Controls – Allergen Control

The PRAC Food Bank policy regarding allergens:

The Standard is applicable to all areas, low, medium, and high-risk:

● Precautions are taken to prevent allergen contamination of foods during handling and storage.

* ***The PRAC Food Bank has a sign posted on the front wall stating that the facility contains peanuts, eggs, and potentially other allergens. People are advised to take caution with allergies.***

* The PRAC Food Bank has a separate, covered container where donated foods containing nuts and peanuts are kept. Upon receipt of peanut containing foods, inspections take place to ensure that the packaging is sealed and has not cross-contaminated anything else in the donated bag. If cross-contamination has taken place, and the seal of the allergen containing item is broken, the bag is sealed to prevent further contamination and the contents are labeled as containing allergens. The sealed bag is then offered at the free table to persons who do not suffer from food allergies. If the seal is not broken, the allergen containing item is placed in the labeled allergen bin with other peanut products.

- No peanut or egg item is ever donated to children to take to the school program.
- The PRAC Food Bank also has a separate area for gluten free products for clients who have allergies to gluten.
- All eggs distributed by the PRAC Food Bank are from the Nanaimo Food Hub. We do not purchase eggs. We would work with them if there an issue around allergy and traceability.
- We have one farmer who donates eggs, and the farm where the eggs are donated is a government approved facility, so the eggs are inspected as such. We only accept Grade A eggs. If traceability is required, it will be simple, as there is only one farmer we take donations of eggs from and we do not purchase eggs from the grocery stores.
- Cases of Peanut Butter are purchased through the Protein for the People program and individual jars of peanut butter are never opened inside the facility. If there is a breakage, it is immediately cleaned up and the breakage is recorded in the appropriate folder. NOTE: To date, December 29, 2024, this has never happened. Traceability will done through the Protein for the People crew if ever required.

This can be considered as the policy for:

1. Allergen food handling and storage
2. Allergen labelling and traceability
3. Existence of records if/when required. Note: To date, there are no dated records that were needed.

The Food Bank manager can verify that the above is true. This policy will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis by the Policy Committee.