

**Conference for Food Protection
2006 Issue Form**

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Council Recommendation:	Accepted as Submitted _____	Accepted as Amended _____	No Action _____
Delegate Action:	Accepted _____	Rejected _____	

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Title:

Latex in Food Service

Issue you would like the Conference to consider:

The FDA currently allows latex gloves to be used in food service in spite of an avalanche of allergic incidents, case studies, and increasing non-tolerance among the general population. CFR Title 21 Sec. 177.2600 "Rubber articles intended for repeated use" contains the authorizing language.

Last year, several submissions to the NCFP were rejected because of this law (the food code cannot violate laws or statutes). Clearly, however, latex use in food service continues to be an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed.

Public Health Significance:

Latex allergies exist in the general population. A number of individuals have severe allergies resulting in medical emergencies from contact with even a minute amount of exposure.

Further, latex glove users often develop allergies from repeated exposure. Thus, food service workers and consumers are potentially threatened by use of a product for which a number of less expensive and equally functional alternatives already exist.

Recommended Solution: The Conference recommends...:

Formation of a committee, or a subcommittee under the existing allergen committee, to work with the FDA to rapidly resolve this issue. Most states have the ability to issue interim policies having the effect of law until such time as the CFR can be amended.

The committee's charge is to develop interim language to be made available to state and local regulators to restrict latex glove use in food manufacturing, production, or service facilities.

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