

Inspection Report Item 11: Wild Mushrooms

Code References: FDA Food Code 3-201.16
IA 481-31.1(4)

Rule 481-31.1(12) was instituted in April of 2010. That rule allows the sale of wild harvested Morel mushrooms in Iowa. This rule affects the sale of wild harvested Morel mushrooms in three different areas: food establishments, farmers markets, and sales from the home. The rule only allows for the sale of wild harvested Morel mushrooms and does not allow the sale of other wild harvested mushroom species in food establishments or at farmers markets. Cultivated wild mushroom species are not covered in this rule. Cultivated wild mushroom species are generally treated as any other agricultural commodity. See Food Code Section 3-201.16 (B).

Food establishments selling wild harvested Morel mushrooms

Wild Morel mushrooms ONLY can be sold in a food establishment if all of the following criteria are met;

1. Each Morel mushroom must be inspected and found to be safe by a “certified Morel mushroom identification expert”;
 2. The seller of the Morel mushrooms must keep on record for 90 days from the date the mushrooms were purchased the following information:
 - a. The name, address, and telephone number of the certified Morel mushroom identification expert;
 - b. A copy of the Morel mushroom identification expert’s certificate of successful completion of the course, containing the date of completion; and
 - c. The quantity of the Morel mushrooms purchased and the date(s) purchased. (This is not required if the seller is the certified Morel mushroom identification expert).
 3. A Consumer Advisory shall inform consumers by brochures, deli case or menu advisories, label statements, table tents, placards, or other effective written means that, “Wild mushrooms should be thoroughly cooked and may cause allergic reactions or other effects”.
- Any violation of the above rules shall be cited under Code Section 3-201.16(A) item #11 Wild Mushrooms on the inspection report.
 - If numbers 1 and 2 above are in violation the mushrooms shall be placed on hold until the mushrooms are inspected and found to be safe by a “certified Morel mushroom identification expert” and proper documentation is reviewed by the inspector or the mushrooms are disposed of during the inspection.
 - If number 3 above is in violation it must be treated as a risk factor violation.

Morel mushroom sales at Farmers Markets

Wild Morel mushrooms ONLY can be sold at a Farmers Market if all of the following criteria are met;

1. Each Morel mushroom must be inspected and found to be safe by a “certified Morel mushroom identification expert”;
 2. The seller of the Morel mushrooms must keep on record for 90 days from the date the mushrooms were purchased the following information;
 - a. The name, address, and telephone number of the certified Morel mushroom identification expert;
 - b. A copy of the Morel mushroom identification expert’s certificate of successful completion of the course, containing the date of completion; and
 - c. The quantity of the Morel mushrooms purchased and the date(s) purchased. This is not required if the seller is the certified Morel mushroom identification expert.
 3. The seller must obtain a Farmers Market Potentially Hazardous Food License, a Temporary Food License, or a Mobile Food License.
 4. A Consumer Advisory shall inform consumers by brochures, deli case or menu advisories, label statements, table tents, placards, or other effective written means that, “Wild mushrooms should be thoroughly cooked and may cause allergic reactions or other effects”.
- Any violation of the above rules shall be cited under Code Section 3-201.16(A) item #11 Wild Mushrooms on the inspection report.
 - If numbers 1 and 2 above are in violation the mushrooms shall be placed on hold until the mushrooms are inspected and found to be safe by a “certified Morel mushroom identification expert” and proper documentation is reviewed by the inspector or the mushrooms are disposed of during the inspection.
 - If number 4 is in violation it must be treated as a risk factor violation.

Morel mushrooms sold from the home

The Department does not require individuals selling wild Morel mushrooms from their home to be licensed. However, those sales are still covered under the “Morel mushroom rule” and would have to meet the following criteria:

1. Each Morel mushroom must be inspected and found to be safe by a “certified Morel mushroom identification expert”;
2. The seller of the Morel mushrooms must keep on record for 90 days from the date the mushrooms were purchased the following information;
 - a. The name, address, and telephone number of the certified Morel mushroom identification expert,
 - b. A copy of the Morel mushroom identification expert’s certificate of successful completion of the course, containing the date of completion, and
 - c. The quantity of the Morel mushrooms purchased and the date(s) purchased.
3. A Consumer Advisory shall inform consumers by brochures, deli case or menu advisories, label statements, table tents, placards, or other effective written means that wild mushrooms should be thoroughly cooked and may cause allergic reactions or other effects.
4. Upon request by the regulatory authority, the seller of wild Morel mushrooms shall provide proof that each of these criteria is met.