

# TIME/TEMPERATURE CONTROL FOR SAFETY FOOD

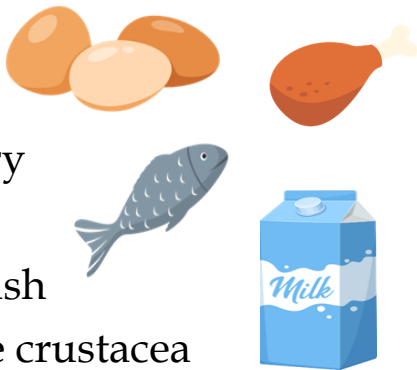
**What is a time/temperature control for safety food (TCS)?**

**A TCS food is any food that requires time/temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation.**

## **This includes:**

### **Foods which consist in whole or in part of:**

- Milk or milk products
- Eggs
- Meat
- Poultry
- Fish
- Shellfish
- Edible crustacea
- Other ingredients which are capable of supporting the rapid growth of infectious or toxic microorganisms



## **Also:**

- A food of animal origin that is raw or heat treated
- A food of plant origin that is heat treated
- Raw seed sprouts
- Cut tomatoes
- Cut melons
- Garlic-in-oil mixtures
- Cut leafy greens



## **But does not include:**

### ***Foods that:***

- Are in an unopened hermetically sealed container
- Pasteurized eggs with shell intact
- Air cooled hard boiled egg with shell intact
- A food designated as a non-TCS food in table A or B



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**Table A. Interaction of pH and  $A_w$  for control of spores in food heat treated to destroy vegetative cells and subsequently packaged**

<b><math>A_w</math> Values</b>	<b>pH: 4.6 or less</b>	<b>pH: &gt; 4.6 - 5.6</b>	<b>pH: &gt; 5.6</b>
<b><math>\leq 0.92</math></b>	non - TCS FOOD*	Non - TCS FOOD	Non - TCS FOOD
<b>&gt; 0.92 - 0.95</b>	non - TCS FOOD	non - TCS FOOD	PA**
<b>&gt; 0.95</b>	non - TCS FOOD	PA	PA

\* TCS FOOD means TIME/TEMPERATURE CONTROL FOR SAFETY FOOD

\*\* PA means product Assessment required

**Table B. Interaction of pH and  $A_w$  for control of vegetative cells and spores in FOOD not heated-treated or heat treated but not PACKAGED**

<b><math>A_w</math> values</b>	<b>pH: &lt;4.2</b>	<b>pH: 4.2 - 4.6</b>	<b>pH: &gt; 4.6 - 5.0</b>	<b>pH: &gt; 5.0</b>
<b>&lt; 0.88</b>	Non - TCS	Non - TCS	Non - TCS food	Non - TCS
<b>0.88 - 0.90</b>	Non - TCS food	Non - TCS food	Non - TCS food	PA**
<b>&gt; 0.90 - 0.92</b>	Non - TCS food	Non - TCS food	PA	PA
<b>&gt; 0.92</b>	Non - TCS	PA	PA	PA

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