

Food Establishment Inspection Report

Score: 96.5

Establishment Name: LA TABERNA MEXICAN BAR GRILL

Establishment ID: 4092019323

Location Address: 1301 E WILLIAMS ST

City: APEX State: North Carolina

Zip: 27502 County: 92 Wake

Permittee: LOS MEZA LLC

Telephone: (919) 267-4788

Inspection Re-Inspection Educational Visit

Wastewater System:

Municipal/Community On-Site System

Water Supply:

Municipal/Community On-Site Supply

Date: 09/23/2025 Status Code: A

Time In: 11:30 AM Time Out: 1:30 PM

Category#: IV

FDA Establishment Type: Full-Service Restaurant

No. of Risk Factor/Intervention Violations: 2

No. of Repeat Risk Factor/Intervention Violations: 0

Foodborne Illness Risk Factors and Public Health Interventions

Risk factors: Contributing factors that increase the chance of developing foodborne illness.

Public Health Interventions: Control measures to prevent foodborne illness or injury

Compliance Status		OUT	CDI	R	VR
Supervision .2652					
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT/N/A				
PIC Present, demonstrates knowledge, & performs duties		1	0		
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT/N/A				
Certified Food Protection Manager		1	0		
Employee Health .2652					
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Management, food & conditional employee; knowledge, responsibilities & reporting		2	1	0	
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Proper use of reporting, restriction & exclusion		3	1.5	0	
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Procedures for responding to vomiting & diarrheal events		1	0.5	0	
Good Hygienic Practices .2652, .2653					
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Proper eating, tasting, drinking or tobacco use		1	0.5	0	
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
No discharge from eyes, nose, and mouth		1	0.5	0	
Preventing Contamination by Hands .2652, .2653, .2655, .2656					
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Hands clean & properly washed		4	2	0	
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT/N/A/N/O				
No bare hand contact with RTE foods or pre-approved alternate procedure properly followed		4	2	0	
10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T/N/A				
Handwashing sinks supplied & accessible		2	X	0	X
Approved Source .2653, .2655					
11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Food obtained from approved source		2	1	0	
12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Food received at proper temperature		2	1	0	
13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Food in good condition, safe & unadulterated		2	1	0	
14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Required records available: shellstock tags, parasite destruction		2	1	0	
Protection from Contamination .2653, .2654					
15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Food separated & protected		3	1.5	0	
16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T				
Food-contact surfaces: cleaned & sanitized		3	X	0	X
17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Proper disposition of returned, previously served, reconditioned & unsafe food		2	1	0	
Potentially Hazardous Food Time/Temperature .2653					
18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Proper cooking time & temperatures		3	1.5	0	
19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Proper reheating procedures for hot holding		3	1.5	0	
20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Proper cooling time & temperatures		3	1.5	0	
21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Proper hot holding temperatures		3	1.5	0	
22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Proper cold holding temperatures		3	1.5	0	
23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Proper date marking & disposition		3	1.5	0	
24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Time as a Public Health Control; procedures & records		3	1.5	0	
Consumer Advisory .2653					
25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Consumer advisory provided for raw/undercooked foods		1	0.5	0	
Highly Susceptible Populations .2653					
26	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Pasteurized foods used; prohibited foods not offered		3	1.5	0	
Chemical .2653, .2657					
27	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Food additives: approved & properly used		1	0.5	0	
28	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Toxic substances properly identified stored & used		2	1	0	
Conformance with Approved Procedures .2653, .2654, .2658					
29	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Compliance with variance, specialized process, reduced oxygen packaging criteria or HACCP plan		2	1	0	

Good Retail Practices

Good Retail Practices: Preventative measures to control the addition of pathogens, chemicals, and physical objects into foods.

Compliance Status		OUT	CDI	R	VR
Safe Food and Water .2653, .2655, .2658					
30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Pasteurized eggs used where required		1	0.5	0	
31	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Water and ice from approved source		2	1	0	
32	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Variance obtained for specialized processing methods		2	1	0	
Food Temperature Control .2653, .2654					
33	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Proper cooling methods used; adequate equipment for temperature control		1	0.5	0	
34	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Plant food properly cooked for hot holding		1	0.5	0	
35	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/O				
Approved thawing methods used		1	0.5	0	
36	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Thermometers provided & accurate		1	0.5	0	
Food Identification .2653					
37	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Food properly labeled: original container		2	1	0	
Prevention of Food Contamination .2652, .2653, .2654, .2656, .2657					
38	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Insects & rodents not present; no unauthorized animals		2	1	0	
39	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Contamination prevented during food preparation, storage & display		2	1	0	
40	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Personal cleanliness		1	0.5	0	
41	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Wiping cloths: properly used & stored		1	0.5	0	
42	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Washing fruits & vegetables		1	0.5	0	
Proper Use of Utensils .2653, .2654					
43	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
In-use utensils: properly stored		1	0.5	0	
44	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T				
Utensils, equipment & linens: properly stored, dried & handled		1	0.5	X	
45	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Single-use & single-service articles: properly stored & used		1	0.5	0	
46	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Gloves used properly		1	0.5	0	
Utensils and Equipment .2653, .2654, .2663					
47	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T				
Equipment, food & non-food contact surfaces approved, cleanable, properly designed, constructed & used		1	X	0	
48	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Warewashing facilities: installed, maintained & used; test strips		1	0.5	0	
49	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T				
Non-food contact surfaces clean		1	X	0	
Physical Facilities .2654, .2655, .2656					
50	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Hot & cold water available; adequate pressure		1	0.5	0	
51	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Plumbing installed; proper backflow devices		2	1	0	
52	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Sewage & wastewater properly disposed		2	1	0	
53	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A				
Toilet facilities: properly constructed, supplied & cleaned		1	0.5	0	
54	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Garbage & refuse properly disposed; facilities maintained		1	0.5	0	
55	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Physical facilities installed, maintained & clean		1	0.5	0	
56	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OUT				
Meets ventilation & lighting requirements; designated areas used		1	0.5	0	
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS:					3.5



Comment Addendum to Inspection Report

Establishment Name: LA TABERNA MEXICAN BAR GRILL

Establishment ID: 4092019323

Date: 09/23/2025 **Time In:** 11:30 AM **Time Out:** 1:30 PM

Observations and Corrective Actions

Violations cited in this report must be corrected within the time frames below, or as stated in sections 8-405.11 of the food code.

- 10 Violation: 5-205.11 - Using a Handwashing Sink - Operation and Maintenance (Pf)
The handwashing sink in the prep area was observed to contain food debris and was blocked by a large trash can, making it inaccessible for proper handwashing. A handwashing sink shall be used only for handwashing and must be maintained in a manner that ensures it is accessible at all times for that purpose. The Person in Charge (PIC) immediately had the sink cleaned and the trash can relocated to restore access. ***CORRECTED DURING INSPECTION (CDI)**
- 16 4-601.11(A) Equipment, Food-Contact Surfaces, Nonfood Contact Surfaces, and Utensils (Pf)
Several knives with visible food residue were stored in the clean utensil area, indicating they had not been properly cleaned. Food-contact surfaces of equipment and utensils must be clean to sight and touch to prevent contamination. PIC removed the soiled knives and placed them in the dishwashing area for proper cleaning and sanitizing. ***CDI***
- 44 4-903.11 (A), (B), and (D) Equipment, Utensils, Linens and Single-Service and Single-Use Articles Storing (C)
Several food containers were observed wet stacked while being stored as clean. After cleaning and sanitizing, equipment and utensils must be stored in a self-draining position that allows air drying. ***CDI***
- 47 4-501.11 Good Repair and Proper Adjustment - Equipment (C)
Lowboy coolers were observed to be pooling condensate inside the units. Equipment must be maintained in good repair and properly adjusted to prevent the accumulation of moisture. PIC was informed and will arrange for maintenance or repair to eliminate the pooling condensate and ensure the units operate properly.
- 49 4-602.13 Nonfood Contact Surfaces (C)
Prep surfaces remained soiled with food debris during inspection and walk in cooler shelving has residue accumulation. Nonfood contact surfaces of equipment shall be kept clean to prevent the accumulation of dust, food residue, and other debris. These surfaces must be cleaned at a frequency necessary to maintain cleanliness and prevent potential contamination. PIC was advised to increase the cleaning frequency of these areas. Surfaces were scheduled for cleaning.