

Guide to the Use of Microwave Ovens

1. Construction

- (1) The oven cavity in which food is cooked should be lined with smooth, impervious, non-toxic and corrosion resistant materials.
- (2) The air intake opening of the microwave oven should be fitted with a filter capable of being detached for cleaning.
- (3) Safety switches and at least two primary interlocks should be provided to the microwave oven to prevent the unit from operating when the door is opened. One "back-up" interlock should also be included to monitor the two primary interlocks.
- (4) An intrusion proof glass/metal door should be provided.
- (5) The transformer in the microwave oven should be of the separately-wound type in which the windings are mounted on separate limb of an earthed core. If a step-up transformer is employed it should be provided with means for automatic isolation of the transformer from all circuit conductors of the supply in the event of an earth-leakage exceeding 20% of the normal steady current in the circuit supplied from the transformer.
- (6) A certificate from a competent authority or the manufacturer, to the effect that the energy leakage at 50 mm from the microwave oven is less than 5 milliwatts per square centimeter, should be available.

2. Sitting

- (1) The microwave oven should be located in a position liable to receive the least chance of contamination, including contamination by odour or dust, and with good general ventilation to ensure that the loss of body heat from the operator to the surrounding is possible.
- (2) In food premises where the microwave oven is not intended for use by customers, the oven should be placed in such a way as will not be readily reached or disturbed by customers.
- (3) Ovens should be so placed that they are operated will below eye level.

3. Operation

- (1) Make sure that the oven door is securely closed before starting the cooking cycle.
- (2) Do not operate the oven if there is no food in it.
- (3) Stop using the oven immediately when a fault is detected.
- (4) Under no circumstances should the interlocking device be disconnected or by-passed except during maintenance or repair.

4. Maintenance and Repair

- (1) Do not allow food particles or grease to collect in the oven cavity. Spills should be wiped up as they occur.
- (2) The oven cavity, including the inside walls, should be thoroughly swabbed clean at least once every day.
- (3) The filter of the air intake opening should be kept in a clean condition and should be taken out for cleaning at weekly intervals.
- (4) The microwave oven should be regularly serviced and checked by the authorized agents, with particular regard to limiting emitted radiation.
- (5) During maintenance or repair procedures it is necessary for the technician to wear goggles if the oven is in operation.

5. The Operator

- (1) Restaurant proprietors should designate some particular person(s) as operators to operate the microwave oven.
- (2) Operators should be advised of the Guide and warned of the possible health hazards and fire risk associated with the use of such ovens.
- (3) Operators should strictly follow the instructions on operation and cleaning procedures as recommended by the manufacturers.
- (4) Operators should never attempt to carry out repair work to the oven themselves or to disturb the safety interlocks by any means.