

Three GPO food court vendors closed due to rodents, one closed due to roaches

Oct. 11, 2017



Three food court vendors at Guam Premier Outlets are closed after a Department of Public Health inspection found rodent activity at those businesses Tuesday, and another was closed following an inspection Wednesday.

Department of Public Health and Social Services Chief Environmental Public Health Officer M.Thomas Nadeau said the Division of

Environmental Health received a complaint about the possible presence of rodents at China Wok.

Officials from the division went to China Wok Tuesday to inspect the establishment and determined there was a rodent infestation, he said.

Based on their findings, inspectors then inspected all 12 other establishments at the food court to check for possible rodent infestation to determine the extent of the problem, Nadeau said.

Two other restaurants, Imperial Garden and Mongo-Mongo, were also closed due to rodent infestation, Nadeau said.

The three establishments didn't receive demerits higher than 40, which would have closed them. However, because of the rodent infestation their sanitary permits were suspended, despite the score, he said.



Rodent infestation is deemed an imminent health hazard, and thus the closure, he said.

Nadeau said any demerit score over 40 results in a D grade and a closure of the facility.

China Wok had 29 demerits for a C grade, Mongo Mongo had 11 demerits for B, while Imperial Garden had 24 demerits for C grade, he said.

No rodent activities were observed at the other 10 establishments located in the food court.

It's possible that other establishments could be closed if they get enough demerits during the inspections, Nadeau said.



The division did regular inspections at GPO on Wednesday, and closed another stall due to a cockroach infestation. During regular sanitary inspections Wednesday another vendor, Aji Ichi Japanese Restaurant, was closed due to a cockroach infestation, the inspection results state.

Even without a cockroach infestation, the food stall would have closed based on the number of demerits it received. It got 62 demerits with a D grade, according to the inspection results.

The division will continue inspections Thursday, Nadeau said.

GPO General Manager Monte Mesa said tenants are expected to keep their establishments up to health standards. Management works with tenants to remind them, he said.

"Cleanliness needs to be there. There's no compromising on that. Everybody needs to comply," he said.

On its part, GPO ensures that the common area of the food court is cleaned, as well as the restrooms, so people have a comfortable experience, Mesa said.

Nadeau said the division regularly conducts inspections of restaurants and other food facilities, but not in the frequency and number required because of staffing number.

"This is why we value public's notification of food establishments that may not be complying with sanitation standards," he said.

Public Health prioritizes those establishments that serve high-risk population and those food establishments that serve food, or perform complex food preparation, that increase the potential for foodborne illness, he said.

