



Introduction To Mobile Food Units

*For information on mobile licensing in
Cleveland, Ohio contact*

CDPH Food Program

216-664-2300

cdphfoodprogram@clevelandohio.gov

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Each section includes information on:

- Type Definition
- Basic Requirements
- Related Regulations
- Concession Identification

I. CONCESSION TRAILERS / TRUCKS

Type Definition

Concession Trailers / Trucks are totally self-contained units. There is mechanical refrigeration, a complete plumbing system including a hot water tank, and plenty of storage space for multiple day events.



Basic Requirements

- Concession Trailers / Trucks that prepare or cook food for customers should contain the following:
 - Commercial cooking equipment
 - Commercial refrigerators/freezers that are not moved from the concession
 - Sink systems that are large enough to handle all items that must be washed/rinsed/sanitized in the concession. There must be a three-compartment sink with a faucet.
 - There must be a hand wash sink with a faucet.
 - Water systems that can handle the hot water needs of the food service. (A minimum of 5 gallons of water is recommended).
 - There must be adequate food/dry goods storage.
 - There must be an adequate wastewater storage tank.
- Food to be served from the Concession will be prepared on the Concession. No food preparation will be allowed from a home and brought to the Concession for sale.

Related Regulations

- All the food handling regulations that pertain to a restaurant are exactly the same for a Mobile Food Concession.
- There are three exceptions to the Food Safety Regulations that do not completely pertain to a Mobile Food Concession. These exceptions are:
 - No restroom is required.
 - A ventilation hood is not normally required.
 - A grease interceptor is not required.

Concession Identification

- An ID must be at least 3" tall and 1" wide, placed anywhere on the concession, and contain the following information:
 - 1 Company Name
 - 2 City, State, Zip Code
 - 3 Area Code and Phone Number

II. PUSHCARTS

Type Definition

Pushcarts come in two varieties, those in which the operator stands on the ground or those in which the operator stands inside the cart. Typically, there is no electric or mechanical refrigeration associated with a pushcart.

Basic Requirements

- Pushcarts usually have a fixed grill or flat top that is manufactured into the body of the cart. The warmers

and cold storage are also part of the body of the Pushcart.

- Pushcarts normally have limited infrastructure and no electricity associated with their operation. Therefore, ice coolers serve as refrigerators and the sinks are very small. The water supply and dry storage are also very limited.
- Although the sinks are small, there must still be a hand wash sink and a three-compartment (wash/rinse/sanitize) sink. There must also be a faucet. See examples below.
- Because of the limited infrastructure, Pushcarts must work out of a commissary. A commissary is nothing more than a licensed food service.
- A restaurant or grocery store are common commissaries that Pushcarts work out of.
- The Pushcart must begin and end each working day at the commissary.

Commissary Agreement, (supplied by the Health Dept.), must be signed by the Pushcart owner and the Commissary owner on a yearly basis before a Mobile Food Service License is issued. This Commissary Agreement basically states that the commissary owner knows, and agrees to let the Pushcart owner work from their facility. The Commissary owner must agree to have the commissary open for use whenever the Pushcart owner needs to use it. This agreement allows the Pushcart owner to use the infrastructure of the commissary that the Pushcart lacks.

Related Regulations

- Food to be served from the Concession will be prepared on the Concession. No food preparation will be allowed from a home and brought to the Concession for sale.
- All food handling regulations that pertain to a restaurant are exactly the same for a Mobile Pushcart Food Concession.
- Pushcarts are referred to as “restricted mobiles”.
- There may be local regulations that limit where and when this type of Pushcart Concession operates.



Concession Identification

- An ID 3" tall and 1" wide and contain the following information:

1. Company Name
2. City, State, Zip Code
3. Area Code and Phone Number

Examples of Pushcarts

An example of a pushcart with a three compartment sink and a handsink.

An example of a three compartment sink and a handsink on a pushcart.



III. KNOCKDOWN CONCESSION

Type Definition

A Knockdown Concession is exactly what the name implies. It must be built and knocked down for each event.

At first glance, it may seem like the easiest way to get into the mobile concession business. However, they actually require the most work of all the mobile types. Remember, all the regulations for a normal food service business apply.



Basic Requirements

- There are three exceptions to the food safety regulations that do not completely pertain to a Mobile Food Concession. These exceptions are:
 - No restroom is required.
 - A ventilation hood is not normally required.
 - No grease interceptor is required.
- A Knockdown Concession would not be allowed to stand on a soft surface such as the grass or bare ground due to dust, dirt, or possibly mud (if bad weather occurred before or during an event). You must have some type of floor.
- All Commercial cooking equipment is required.
- Food to be served from the Knockdown Concession will be prepared on the concession. No food preparation will be allowed from a home and brought to the concession for sale.
- There must be sink systems that are large enough to handle all items that must be washed/rinsed/sanitized in the concession. The sink system must be set-up for each event. There must be a three-compartment sink with a faucet and a hand wash sink with a faucet.
- Water systems that can handle the hot water needs of the food service must be set-up at each event (a minimum of 5 gallons of hot water is recommended).
- There also must be a system in place at each event to dispose of the wastewater from the hand sink and three-compartment sink. This also can be quite challenging.
- Some type of roof is required for those rainy days. Food must be protected from dust, dirt, rain, and occasional birds flying directly overhead. An open flame used to cook (such as a grill) under a tent is not allowed, according to the Fire Dept.
- Commercial refrigerators and/or freezers must be placed in the Knockdown Concession for each set-up.
- There must be adequate food/dry goods storage space inside. Many times a stock truck can provide additional storage space. But remember, additional storage space will be inspected for cleanliness or any other conditions that may apply.

Related Regulations

- All the food handling regulations that pertain to a restaurant are exactly the same for a Knockdown Mobile Food Concession.

Concession Identification

• An ID must be at least 3" tall and 1" wide and contain the following information:

1. Company Name
2. City, State, Zip Code
3. Area Code and Phone Number

Example of Knockdown Concession



IV. FROZEN FOOD TRUCKS / CARTS

Type Definition

A Frozen Food Truck / Cart is a mobile motorized or non motorized concession on wheels that normally contains a commercial freezer. All product is frozen and prepackaged.

Examples of Frozen Food Trucks / Carts include, but are not limited to, frozen meats and ice cream. This does not include soft serve ice cream trucks. Those trucks will be addressed in the next category.



Basic Requirements

- The frozen foods must be received frozen and are prepackaged. These foods must come from a commercial distributor.
- Frozen Food being held in storage before its sale to the public is prohibited from being stored inside a residence.
- Freezers holding the food for sale must be of commercial grade. There must be a label or data plate on the unit that states for "commercial use".
- This is the only type of Concession in which no plumbing system is required. No hand wash sink is required on a Frozen Food Truck / Cart.



Related Regulations

- The Frozen Food Concession is legal to sell its product anywhere within Ohio (as long as local regulations are satisfied).
- There may be local regulations that limit where and when this type of Frozen Food Truck / Cart operates. An example of this may be a Peddler's Permit issued by a city's Permit Department or Zoning Department.

Concession Identification

- An ID must be at least 3" tall and 1" wide and contain the following information:
 - 1 Company Name
 - 2 City, State, Zip Code
 - 3 Area Code and Phone Number

V. CATERING TYPE TRUCK

Type Definition

Catering Type Trucks carry prepackaged and non-prepackaged hot and cold type foods.

Basic Requirements

- These type trucks that carry only prepackaged hot or cold foods are not required to have a hand wash sink.
- Food must maintain proper temperatures at all times.
- Packaged food on these type trucks must come from a licensed and inspected wholesale type facility. The Ohio Department of Agriculture inspects these wholesale facilities.
- Catering Trucks that have a commercial grill or soup warmer must meet the same requirements as a Concession Trailer / Truck Mobile.

Related Regulations

- There may be local regulations that limit where and when this type of Truck Cart operates. An example of this may be a Peddler's Permit issued by a city's Permit Department or Zoning Department.

Concession Identification

- An ID must be at least 3" tall and 1" wide and contain the following information:
 - 1 Company Name
 - 2 City, State, Zip Code
 - 3 Area Code and Phone Number



VI. SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM TRUCK

Type Definition

A Soft Serve Ice Cream Truck traditionally has a soft serve ice cream machine on board with all the favorite toppings.

Basic Requirements

- 1 Commercial refrigerators/freezers that are not moved from the concession
- 2 Sink systems that are large enough to handle all items that must be washed/rinsed/sanitized in the concession. There must be a three-compartment sink with a faucet.
- 3 There must be a hand wash sink with a faucet.
- 4 Water systems that can handle the hot water needs of the food service. (A minimum of 5 gallons of water is recommended).
- 5 There must be adequate food/dry goods storage.
- 6 There must be an adequate wastewater storage tank.



Related Regulations

- Soft Serve Ice Cream Concessions fall under the same regulations as a Concession Trailer / Truck.
- There may be local regulations that limit where and when this type of Soft Serve Ice Cream Truck operates. An example of this may be a Peddler's Permit issued by a city's Permit Department or Zoning Department.

Concession Identification

- An ID must be at least 3" tall and 1" wide, placed anywhere on the concession, and contain the following information:
 - 1 Company Name
 - 2 City, State, Zip Code
 3. Area Code and Phone Number

VII. MOBILE COOKERS / BBQ PITS

Type Definition

A Mobile Cooker / BBQ Pit is virtually an oven on wheels. The cooking unit is mounted to the frame of the concession.

Basic Requirements

- The Mobile Cooker / BBQ Pit type concessions must have all the infrastructure of a Concession Trailer or Knockdown. Notice the sink set-up on this Cooker. If the unit is large enough to house cooking equipment, refrigeration system, full plumbing system (including three- compartment utensil sink, hand wash sink, hot & cold running water, and waste water holding tank), and adequate storage space, an auxiliary trailer or knockdown may not be needed.
- Most Mobile Cooker / BBQ Pit type concessions require an auxiliary unit due to infrastructure needs.
- Food to be served from the Concession will be prepared on the Concession. No food preparation will be allowed from a home and brought to the Concession for sale.



Related Regulations

- There may be local regulations that limit where and when this type of Truck Cart operates. An example of this may be a Peddler's Permit issued by the city in question's Permit Dept or Zoning Dept.

Concession Identification

- An ID must be at least 3" tall and 1" wide, placed anywhere on the concession, and contain the following information:
 - 1 Company Name
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MOBILE FOOD SERVICE OPERATION PLANNING APPLICATION

Name of the mobile food service operation: _____

License Holder (legally responsible party): _____

Address, City, Zip Code of the location where the mobile food service operation will be housed: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Phone Number(s): _____

Check (☐) the box that applies to the type of mobile food operation license you are applying for:

☐ Concession Trailer/Truck ☐ Frozen Food Truck/Cart ☐ Mobile Cooker/BBQ Pit

☐ Pushcart ☐ Catering Type Truck

☐ Knockdown Concession ☐ Soft Serve Ice Cream Truck

2026-2027 License Fees

\$228.00- Low Risk Mobile Operation

\$428.00- High Risk Mobile Operation

- **Low Risk Mobile:** Holding commercially pre-packaged refrigerated or frozen foods that require temperature controls for safety and offering pre-packaged foods that do not require temperature controls for safety. Cottage Food Operation and Licensed Home Bakery items must be properly labeled and follow Ohio Department of Agriculture regulations.
- **High Risk Mobile:** All food must be prepared in your mobile food service operation or by a commercially licensed processing facility. **No food may be made in your home.**
- A complete menu for your mobile food service operation must be provided.
- The menu and drawing for your mobile food service operation will be printed on the back of your license and **must be posted or readily available in your mobile at all times. We recommend that you keep a copy of the back of the license for submission each year.**
- Any additions or alterations to your menu must be approved by this department and added to the back of the license by your sanitarian.
- Complete the **MENU REVIEW SHEET** on page 4 of this packet.

1. Provide a list of your food suppliers. Attach additional pages if needed.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.

FOOD PREPARATION REVIEW AND GENERAL INFORMATION

1. How will produce be prepared?

- ☐ No produce will be used or served.
- ☐ All produce will come into the mobile pre-washed and pre-cut.
(Supply invoices on request)
- ☐ All produce will be prepared in a separate food preparation sink.

2. What is your method of thawing frozen foods?

- ☐ No thawing required for any menu items.
- ☐ Thawing will take place under refrigeration.
- ☐ Thawing will be done under cool running water.
- ☐ Thawing will be done in the microwave followed by
immediate transfer to conventional cooking equipment.

3. How will you ensure that time/ temperature controlled for safety cold foods are maintained at or below 41°F?

4. How will you ensure that time/ temperature controlled for safety hot foods are maintained at 135°F or above?

5. How will employees avoid bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods?

- ☐ Disposable gloves
- ☐ Deli tissue
- ☐ Dispensing utensil with a handle
- ☐ Other

6. A three compartment sink with drain boards must be provided for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing of equipment and utensils. The sink size must be large enough to accommodate immersion of the largest piece of equipment.

7. A chemical sanitizer must be provided for bactericidal treatment of all food contact surfaces, equipment, and utensils.

8. Check the appropriate box for the type of sanitizer that will be supplied. Provide the appropriate test kit to accurately measure the concentration of sanitizing solution.

- ☐ Chlorine
- ☐ Quaternary ammonium
- ☐ Iodine

9. At least 50 foot candles of light must be available inside the mobile unit. Lights must be shielded with light tubes and end caps or with shatter proof bulbs inside the mobile unit. Advertising lights on the outside are not required to be shielded.

10. Screens for door and windows are recommended.

MOBILE FOOD SERVICE FINISH MATERIALS

- Note that all surfaces must be smooth and easily cleanable.
- List the materials that will be used to provide a smooth, cleanable surface.
- Coving must be used to seal the wall-floor joint.
- All installed equipment and counters must be sealed to walls and floors.

FLOOR	WALL	CEILING	COUNTERS	CABINETS

Each application must include a drawing to scale of the full operation. Please attach drawings or architectural plans to application.

MENU REVIEW SHEET

Please provide the following information for all items to be sold in the mobile food service operation. Remember, all food must be prepared in the mobile food service operation, or by a commercially licensed facility. No food may be prepared in your home.

[illegible]

EQUIPMENT LIST

Please provide the following information for all equipment you will provide in your mobile food service operation. All equipment must be approved by the Health Department before it can be used. If you need more space, please use the back of this sheet or additional paper. Information or specification sheets on equipment may also be provided for review.

[illegible]