



MOBILE FOOD VENDORS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide guidance on the *minimum* fire safety for Food Trucks and Food Truck Parks operating within the unincorporated portion of the District.

FOOD TRUCKS

Individual food trucks operating within the District must obtain and maintain a current mobile food vendor permit through the City of Austin Environmental Health Services Division, using the [My Health Department Customer Portal](#). This permitting process includes a required fire inspection to verify compliance with applicable fire safety standards.

Due to the mobile nature of food trucks, the Fire Code Official may, at their discretion, accept a current and valid mobile food vendor permit, decal, or sticker issued by another recognized permitting authority, provided the unit demonstrates compliance with the locally adopted fire code and District requirements; such acceptance will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

FOOD TRUCK PARKS

A Food Truck Park is defined as three or more food trucks or trailers operating together in a semi-permanent or permanent location to serve the public. To protect customers, vendors, and first responders, fire and life safety requirements apply not only to each individual unit but also to the overall site layout, utilities, and fire department access.

Special Project Permits for Food Truck Parks are required prior to operating anywhere within the Fire Code jurisdiction. This permit is issued separately from individual food truck permits to confirm adequate separation between units, unobstructed fire apparatus access, and safe placement of utilities such as LP-gas and electrical service. These measures help reduce the likelihood of fire and improve emergency response in dense, high-traffic food truck park settings.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

*Note: The General Requirements establish the *minimum* criteria for *all* food trucks, whether operating as part of a food truck park or individually, within our jurisdiction and may not encompass all provisions necessary for full code compliance. The Fire Code Official retains the authority to require additional measures or inspections as deemed necessary to ensure public safety. Inspections of these items may be conducted in addition to those required for the permit obtained through the City of Austin Environmental Health Services Division.

PERMIT	Annual	Maintain a current annual operating permit on-site and available for inspection.
CLEARANCE	10'	Maintain a minimum clearance of 10-feet from structures, vehicles, and combustible materials. <i>*Note: Small, vendor-provided shade structures or canopies may be located closer than the required 10-foot separation from other equipment when the individual shade structure or canopy is less than 400 square feet in area. The 10-foot separation requirement applies between each food truck and any associated shade structure and the next closest food truck and its associated shade structure. See Exhibit 1 below for reference.</i>
FIRE LANES	150'	Food trucks shall be within 150' of marked and maintained fire lanes or publicly maintained roads.
FIRE HYDRANTS	Unobstructed	Fire hydrants and fire department connections shall remain unobstructed and readily visible at all times.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS [CONT.]

EXTENSION CORDS	Rated & Secured	Extension cords shall be listed and rated for outdoor use, maintained free of damage, and routed or secured to prevent tripping hazards.
GENERATORS	10'	<p>Shall be located a minimum of 10-feet from tents and canopies and shall be isolated from public access.</p> <p>Must be in safe working condition and properly grounded.</p> <p>Should not be refueled when operating or within 10-feet of the mobile unit.</p>
LP-GAS	200 lbs. Max.	<p>The maximum aggregate capacity of LP-gas containers used to fuel cooking appliances shall not exceed 200 pounds. <i>*No manifolding tanks together.</i></p> <p>All cylinders, including spares, shall have proper shut-off valves.</p> <p>Must be securely mounted so they cannot move, tip, or be dislodged.</p> <p>Shall not be located inside passenger compartments of vehicles.</p>
LPG DETECTOR	UL-Listed	Food trucks utilizing LP-gas must be equipped with a UL-Listed LPG detector.
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS	2-A:10-B:C (ABC)	Each mobile unit shall be provided with a listed, fully charged and readily accessible portable fire extinguisher having a minimum rating of 2-A:10-B:C (ABC).
	Class K	Cooking equipment that uses solid fuel or produces grease-laden vapors from vegetable or animal oils and fats shall be provided with a listed and labeled Class K wet-chemical portable fire extinguisher.

A mobile food truck is allowed to have a shade structure of up to 400 sq feet adjacent to the unit. The food truck and its shade structure must be separated by 10' from the next closest food truck, shade structure, buildings, and other vehicles.



Exhibit 1