

MOBILE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT GUIDELINES

A “mobile retail food establishment” is any moveable restaurant, truck, van, trailer, cart, bicycle, watercraft, or other transportable unit including hand carried, portable containers in or upon which food or beverage is prepared, stored, transported, offered for retail sale, or given away at temporary venues.

STEPS TO OPENING A MOBILE RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENT

_____ Contact the zoning inspector for the municipality where you want to create your operation to determine if an ordinance exists allowing a mobile retail food establishment.

_____ Contact the board of health for licensing requirements and fees for the municipality you wish to operate in.

_____ Contact N.J. Department of Transportation (DOT) to determine if the location you propose for your mobile retail food establishment will be approved. Specifically, if you plan to locate your operation near a major road or highway, DOT must pre-approve the site based on the type of traffic flow anticipated. Provide a copy of this approval to the County Health Department.

_____ The mobile retail food establishment must be based at and operated from a central commissary inspected by a local health authority. This information must be provided to the County Health Department

_____ All water used on the cart must be from an approved source and meet the requirements of the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act. This information must be provided to the County Health Department

_____ All wastewater from the cart must be disposed in an approved location. Wastewater generated by your mobile retail food establishment must never be discharged directly on the ground. The name of the approved location must be provided to the County Health Department

_____ Ingredients used or sold from your mobile retail food establishment must be wholesome and purchased from an approved source. The name of the approved source(s) must be provided to the County Health Department

_____ All solid wastes generated by a mobile retail food establishment must be disposed at a location approved for solid waste.

_____ Your mobile retail food establishment must be constructed using NSF certified equipment and meet all requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:24, Chapter 24 “Sanitation in Retail Food Establishments and Food and

Beverage Vending Machines.” Your design must enable good personal hygiene, protect food and equipment from contamination, and provide hot and cold holding (if required) and support safe food handling.

_____ To obtain a license to operate, your mobile retail food establishment must first be rated SATISFACTORY following a Risk Based Inspection conducted by the County Health Department. The SATISFACTORY placard must be on display at all times while operating at the approved location.

_____ You must display your valid mobile food establishment license on the mobile unit at all times while operating at the approved location.

_____ You must have a written agreement with property owner(s) authorizing your mobile retail food establishment to park at approved location. Provide a copy of the agreement to the County Health Department and the municipality you are operating in.