



Mobile Food Cart



To obtain a permit to operate a Mobile Food Cart you must have a vehicle that is inspected and permitted by the Kern County Environmental Health Division.

Items which may be sold from a Mobile Food Cart include:

Steamed or boiled hotdogs, steamed or boiled corn, tamales, approved prepackaged foods, churros, coffee and tea.



Vehicle inspection days are every Tuesday from 8:00 – 10:00 am



**Kern County Public Health Services Department
Environmental Health Division**



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To obtain a health permit to operate a Mobile Food Cart, you must meet the requirements listed below:

1. Current Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) registration
2. Photo ID
3. Facility/business name, city, state, ZIP code, and permittee name (if different than the name of the facility/business) must be permanently displayed and clearly visible on the Mobile Food Cart. The color of the letters must contrast with the color of the Mobile Food Cart. The facility/business information must be displayed as follows:



Facility/Business Name (written at least 3 inches high)

City, State, Zip Code (written at least 1 inch high)

Permittee Name, if applicable (written at least 1 inch high)



To obtain your permit, bring the Mobile Food Cart and the following to Kern County Environmental Health:

1. Completed Application 
2. Completed Menu 
3. Completed Commissary Authorization

- The Mobile Food Cart must use an approved commissary. The Mobile Food Cart must go to the commissary at least once a day to get food and supplies, to be cleaned, to discard leftover food, to store **unused** food, to fill fresh water tank, and to discard wastewater in approved receptacle.
- The **owner** of the commissary must sign the commissary form on the correct signature line and initial the boxes indicating which services are provided. Incomplete commissary forms will **NOT** be accepted.
- **NOTE:** Any facility acting as a commissary for a mobile vehicle must have a commissary permit with our department. Contact our office to verify whether your commissary has an approved commissary permit.
- If your commissary is located outside of Kern County, an Out-of-County Commissary Form is required. Commissaries located outside of Kern County must be within one hour driving distance of planned operation.



4. Completed Restroom Authorization

- The Mobile Food Cart may not remain stopped for longer than two hours unless the Mobile Food Cart operates within 200 feet of an approved and readily available toilet and hand washing facility (for employee use, only).
- The restroom must be equipped with hot water, soap and paper towels in permanently mounted dispensers.
 - The use of restrooms in a personal residence is **PROHIBITED!**
 - Portable toilets are **NOT** authorized.



5. Completed Itinerary

- List all days, times and locations of operation.



6. Current Department of Motor Vehicles Registration

- Motor vehicle information must match facility/business owner name and address.



7. Photo ID/Driver's license

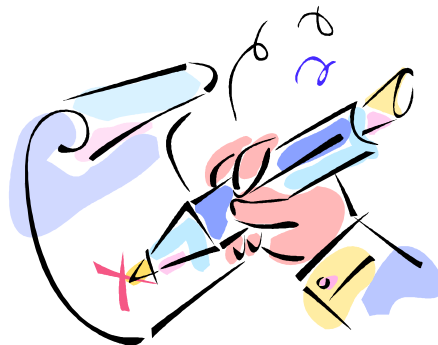
8. Food Safety Manager Certification

- At least one (1) person operating the Mobile Food Cart must be designated as the Food Safety Manager and have a Food Safety Manager Certificate. An individual may not be designated as the Food Safety Manager for more than one (1) health permit.
- Additional employees/operators of the Mobile Food Cart must obtain a Food Handler's Certification.
- Information regarding these requirements is attached.



**ALL FORMS MUST HAVE ORIGINAL OWNER SIGNATURE
OR YOUR PERMIT WILL BE DENIED.**

PHOTOCOPIED SIGNATURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!





The Operator of the Mobile Food Cart must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Only steamed/boiled hotdogs, steamed/boiled corn, tamales, and approved prepackaged foods may be sold. The sale of other potentially hazardous foods (chili, cheese, beans, etc.) is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED!**
2. All food must be held, stored, and served from the cart. Tables are **STRICTLY PROHIBITED!**
3. A refrigeration unit capable of holding food at 41 °F or below must be installed on the Mobile Food Cart.
4. The Mobile Food Cart must have a hand washing station with hot water that maintains 100 °F during hours of operation.
5. All food and supplies must be from an approved source. No food products or supplies may be stored at your home. No food can be prepared at your home.
6. All equipment, cabinets and compartments must be smooth, readily accessible, and easily cleanable.
7. Equipment and utensils must be constructed of non-toxic materials. Wood is not allowed.
8. Food equipment must be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
9. Only food may be sold from the Mobile Food Cart. The sale of cigarettes, toys, and fireworks is **PROHIBITED!**
10. The use of outdoor barbecues, grills or any other outdoor cooking equipment is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED!**
11. The Mobile Food Cart may not operate Monday through Friday within 150 feet of any county school.
12. The Mobile Food Cart may not operate (in the City of Bakersfield) within 300 feet of any public facility, park*, school or playground.

ATTENTION REGARDING CORN/POTATO ROASTERS

Operation of a corn/potato roaster requires a secondary cart with an installed refrigerator. The secondary cart must be used as the storage unit for raw corn, potatoes and condiments. The secondary cart and the roaster must be inspected and approved by this Department. Roasters will be permitted to operate at approved community events and at swap meets, only.





Required Fees

- The Mobile Food Cart must be inspected and the health permit application approved prior to the selling of food. Permittees are required to pay an application fee and a health permit fee at the time of inspection.
 - Application fee for new business→→ **\$125.00**
 - Annual Health Permit Fee→→ **\$545.00**
- Health permits are valid from July 1st through June 30th every year. A full permit fee is required for permits obtained between July 1st and December 31st. A prorated permit fee is granted for permits obtained between January 1st and June 30th. A permit renewal packet will be mailed to the Operator prior to June 30th and must be renewed prior to July 31st to avoid a 50% penalty.



Additional Permits/Licenses

In addition to obtaining an Environmental Health Permit, the Mobile Food Cart Operator may need to obtain one or more of the following:

- A city and/or county business license
- A Transient Outdoor Business Permit, if operating within the City of Bakersfield
- *A Bakersfield City Parks Permit, if the Mobile Food Cart will operate within a city park

It is the responsibility of the Operator to ensure that operation of the Mobile Food Cart is in compliance with additional city, county and/or state ordinances and/or regulations. Check with the appropriate city in which the Mobile Food Cart will operate.

SEE ATTACHED LIST FOR AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

