

FOOD VENDING VEHICLE FAQ's

DISCLAIMER

This document is intended to provide answers to the most asked questions about food vending within the City of Sacramento. The answers provided are for informational purposes only and are NOT intended to be exhaustive. Please see Sacramento City Code Chapter 5.68 (Food Vending Vehicles) for comprehensive information.

WHAT IS A FOOD VENDING VEHICLE?

“Food vending vehicle” means any vehicle (e.g., truck or trailer) or bicycle from which a vendor displays, offers for sale, or sells food or beverages directly to a consumer. Food vending vehicle does not include a vehicle that only delivers food or beverage products ordered by home delivery customers. Food vending vehicle does not include anyone operating from the sidewalk.

WHAT TYPE OF PERMITS DO I NEED TO BECOME A FOOD VENDOR?

There are two permits required, a permit for the food vending vehicle and a permit for the driver of the food vehicle. Before applying for a City permit, a permit from the County of Sacramento Environmental Health Department is required for every vehicle to show compliance with applicable health codes.

Any business operating within the City of Sacramento is required to have a Business Operations Tax (BOT) certificate. You will be unable to proceed with your food vending vehicle permit until a BOT is obtained, which may be completed here:

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Finance/Revenue/Business-Operation-Tax>

WHERE CAN I FIND THE PERMIT APPLICATIONS?

All permit applications can be found on the City of Sacramento Special Business Permits website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Finance/Revenue/Special-Business-Permits>. Food vending vehicle and driver permits can now be completed online. You may also come in person to 915 I Street, Room 1201 Sacramento to pick up the applications.

WHEN DO THE PERMITS EXPIRE?

Both the food vending vehicle and driver permits expire on April 30 of each year. All permits have expiration dates printed on them. Food vending vehicle permits are issued all year and expire on April 30 of the year following issuance. Permit fees are not prorated.

WHAT ABOUT FOOD VENDING VEHICLES THAT DO NOT HAVE CITY PERMITS?

Those food vending vehicles are operating in violation of the Sacramento City Code and are subject to citations and fines for non-compliance. You may call 311 to file a complaint.

WHAT IF I ALREADY HAVE A PERMIT ISSUED BY SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

You will still need a food vending vehicle permit issued by the City of Sacramento to vend within the Sacramento city limits.

HOW DOES A PERMITTED FOOD VENDOR PARTICIPATE IN SPONSORED EVENTS, LIKE SACTOMOFO AND CONCERTS IN THE PARK?

Those events are put on by specific organizations and you must contact those organizations specifically to find out how to participate as a vendor. Permitted special events have individual rules and regulations, so be sure to check with the organizer if you are participating.

DO I HAVE TO BE FINGERPRINTED?

Each driver must be fingerprinted unless the applicant has a valid Sacramento County Food Vendor Card. If you have a valid Sacramento County Food Vendor Card, please provide a copy of the card when submitting the driver application to avoid fingerprinting fees.

CAN I HAVE MULTIPLE DRIVERS?

Yes, each driver must submit a completed application, and complete live scan fingerprinting.

DO DIFFERENT RULES APPLY TO TRUCKS AND TRAILERS?

No, the City of Sacramento permits food trucks and trailers. They are required to meet the same requirements.

WHERE CAN I PARK MY FOOD TRUCK?

You must comply with all parking regulations. You may vend from public parking spaces, but must abide by time limits and pay any applicable meters.

While operating a food vending vehicle, vendors shall keep customers and other patrons from blocking all streets, sidewalks, driveways, doorways, and other avenues of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. No person shall operate a food vending vehicle on the street while stopped, standing, or parked within one hundred (100) feet of any outdoor seating area of any restaurant, café, or other business. No person shall operate a food vending vehicle on the street while stopped, standing, or parked within four hundred (400) feet of any elementary, middle, junior high, or high school while school is in session. No food vending vehicle shall operate within 1,000 feet of any permitted entertainment venue (e.g., clubs) between 1:00-3:00 a.m.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A SACRAMENTO COUNTY HEALTH INSPECTION REPORT?

Sacramento County inspects all food trucks by appointment only. Call (916) 875-8440 to schedule an appointment.