



Office of the Fire Marshal

Guidelines for Mobile Food Trucks/Carts

1. Licensing Requirements

- Valid Driver's License
- Valid Business License
- Current License Plates
- Current Vehicle Inspection Sticker/Paperwork
- Current State Inspection
- Current Vehicle Insurance
- Norfolk Fire Marshal Inspection Sticker
- Health Inspection

2. Fire Protection Systems

- Fire Suppression Systems shall comply with the appropriate provisions of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC).
- **As of January 1, 2015 all Mobile Food Trucks that have any commercial cooking equipment that produce grease laden vapors shall be required to have an Automatic fire-extinguishing system.**
- If more than two frying vessels or 10 gallons of frying media are used, a commercial hood (Type 1) shall be installed above all commercial cooking appliances or domestic cooking appliances used for commercial purposes.
- Fire extinguishers are required for all mobile food vendor operations. All fire extinguishers shall be maintained and inspected on an annual basis. A fire extinguisher (minimum size of 2A 40 BC) will be required in addition to any class K extinguisher. If deep fat fryers are used operators shall have and maintain a Class K portable fire extinguisher.
- Ventilation Control systems shall be appropriate for the cooking operations conducted. Ventilation systems shall be capable of exhausting all byproducts of cooking operations. The hood must be designed to adequately collect and exhaust fumes, smoke and vapors from the area over which it is installed. Hood systems shall be maintained and cleaned in accordance with the VSFPC.
- All fire extinguishing system shall be inspected by a certified fire protection company every 6 months. Records shall be maintained as required in the VSFPC.



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3. Hazardous Materials and Storage of Flammables

- The storage and use of Flammable Liquids shall be in accordance with any applicable regulations under the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code Chapter 27.
- Individual containers, cartons, or packages shall be conspicuously marked or labeled in an approved manner.
- Hazardous materials or liquids shall be disposed of in the proper manner. They shall not be released into any sewer, storm drain, ditch, drainage canal, creek, stream, river, lake or tidal water or on the ground, sidewalk, street, highway or into the atmosphere.

4. Propane and Natural Gas handling Requirements

- Shall follow the provisions under the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code for Liquefied Petroleum Gases Chapter 38 for the storage, handling, transportation and the installation of LP-gas equipment.
- Propane bottles- The capacity limit shall be determined by the Fire Official after consideration of features that secure and protect the container as well as the level of acceptable risk to the general public.
- LP vessels shall be affixed and secure to the portable food service platform in a manner that provides a reasonable expectation of security while parked or in transit. All applicable DOT regulations shall be followed. Hydro dates of propane cylinders will be checked by the Fire Marshal.
- Propane and natural gas tanks shall be shut off while the mobile food vehicle is in motion, unattended and/or in overnight storage.
- Generator(s) and LPG storage compartments located on the exterior of the vehicle must be enclosed. These compartments must have venting to the exterior and must not allow any venting to the interior of the vehicle.
- There shall not be any storage of or use of LPG cylinders within the tow vehicle at any time.



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- Mounting and placement of propane and natural gas tanks. The mounting of propane and natural gas tanks must withstand impact equal to four times the weight of the filled propane or natural gas container according to NFPA 58-6.23.3.4. Tanks must be secure (NFPA58-5.2.4) and conform with NFPA standards relating to the safe mounting of tanks as described in NFPA 58-6.23.3.3.
 - a. Outside mounted in a semi-enclosed cabinet, with vents at the top and bottom to facilitate the diffusion of vapors, vapor-tight to the interior of the vehicle, with a weather-protected regulator and a leak indicator as described in NFPA 1192—6.4.8.
 - b. Outside mounted, secured on top and bottom and stabilized (e.g. with a strap), vapor-tight to the interior of the vehicle, mounted no less than 28” above the ground with a weather-protected regulator.
 - c. Chassis mounted, according to NFPA 58—6.23.3.4

5. Inspections

- The Fire Official is authorized to conduct such inspections as deemed necessary to determine the extent of compliance with the provisions of the Code.
- Vendors shall comply with any applicable City of Norfolk Permits and Fees. The Fire Marshal’s Office requires a Mobile Food Service Vendor inspection sticker.
- Once the inspection is completed on a portable food platform an inspection sticker will be issued. Any Changes to items, processes, storage or configuration within the scope of the Fire Inspection must be approved by the Fire Marshal to maintain the validity of the inspection sticker.

6. Contact Information

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