

# **Frederick County Fire and Rescue Services Division**

5370 Public Safety Place

Frederick, MD 21704

301-600-1479



## **MOBILE FOOD VENDOR INSPECTION GUIDE**



**Office of the Fire Marshal**

# **Mobile Food Vendor Inspection Guide**

All mobile food vending platforms are required to be inspected annually by the Frederick County Fire and Rescue's Office of the Fire Marshal. Inspection Stickers will be valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Failure to comply with the Fire Code is considered a civil citation and the levy of fines not to exceed \$500 per violation.

## **Scope**

The operation of mobile food vending platforms shall be done in a fashion that is safe for the public and the operators.

## **References**

**NFPA 1** – National Fire Protection Association: Fire Code

**NFPA 58** - National Fire Protection Association: LP Gas Code

**NFPA 70-** National Fire Protection Association: The National Electric Code

**NFPA 96** – National Fire Protection Association: Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations

**NFPA 1192** – National Fire Protection Association: Standard on Recreational Vehicles

**Frederick County Code of Ordinances Subsection 1-2-69.1:** Frederick County Fire Prevention Code

## **Purpose**

All mobile food vending platforms shall be inspected and approved by the Frederick County Fire Marshal's Office.

## **Definitions:**

**Mobile Food Vendor Platform** – Any push cart, trailer, enclosed trailer, or enclosed truck that prepares food for sale.

## **Inspection Requirements**

1. Current Frederick County Health Department Inspection
2. Valid Driver's License
3. Current Vehicle Registration
4. Current Vehicle Insurance
5. Mobile Food Vending Platform Plans showing current configuration and design drawings for any fire suppression and/or exhaust systems

## **Fee Schedule**

\$75 Inspection Fee for Mobile Food Vendors

## **Inspection Procedure**

1. Complete the attached pre-inspection checklist to ensure vehicle compliance
2. Complete and submit the attached inspection application to the **Office of the Fire Marshal, 5370 Public Safety Place, Frederick Maryland, 21704** or by emailing to: [dfrsfiremarshal@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:dfrsfiremarshal@frederickcountymd.gov)
3. Upon receipt of the application an inspection time and place will be established.
4. Spot checks will be conducted by Fire Officials throughout the County and at venues and special events.
  - a. Should a vendor be found to have an absent or expired inspection sticker: An inspection shall be conducted;
    1. Upon a completed inspection with no violations, a new inspection sticker shall be issued and a \$75 inspection fee will be due.
    2. Should a vendor refuse inspection, or fail the inspection (i.e.- unable to abate the violation), the vendor may not operate pursuant to the Frederick County Fire Code

# **Pre-Inspection Checklist**

## **Requirements**

### **1) Egress**

- a) All exits shall be unlocked and clear of obstructions at all times

### **2) Fire Protection Systems**

- a) Fire Suppression Systems shall comply with the appropriate provisions of the Frederick County Fire Prevention Code, NFPA 1, and NFPA 96
- b) All Mobile Food Vending Platforms that have any commercial cooking equipment that produce grease laden vapors shall be required to have an Automatic fire-extinguishing system.
- c) If more than two frying vessels or 10 Lbs. 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
- d) At the time of inspection, hood & exhaust systems must be clean and the hood shall have the appropriate sticker attached by a certified cleaner
- e) Fire extinguishers are required for all Mobile Food Vendor operations
  - i) All fire extinguishers shall be maintained and inspected on an annual basis
  - ii) If an Automatic fire-extinguishing system is required a 6 liter Class K portable fire extinguisher shall be maintained though this is not the sole condition requiring such
  - iii) A fire extinguisher (minimum size of 2A-40-BC) will be required in addition to any Class K extinguisher requirements
  - iv) **Note:** Never discharge a Class K extinguisher in or on energized equipment as there is the potential for electrical shock
- f) Portable fire extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use
  - i) Should the platform be a towed trailer, the extinguisher must be kept in the trailer, when operating
- g) All employees working in the vehicle shall be trained in the proper use of the fire extinguisher(s)
- h) Fire extinguishers shall bear a current inspection tag validated within the past twelve months OR a receipt of purchase within the last 12 months shall be available for inspection

### **3) Ventilation Control systems**

- a) Ventilation control systems shall be appropriate for the cooking operations conducted
- b) Ventilation systems shall be capable of exhausting all byproducts of cooking operations
- c) The hood must be designed to adequately collect and exhaust fumes, smoke and vapors from the area over which it is installed
- d) Hood systems shall be maintained and cleaned in accordance with the Frederick County Fire Code, NFPA 1, and NFPA 96
- e) All fire extinguishing systems shall be inspected by a certified fire protection company every 6 months. Records shall be maintained as required in the Frederick County Fire Code, NFPA 1, and NFPA 96
  - i) Records shall be submitted to the AHJ in an approved method

### **4) Hazardous Materials and Storage of Flammables**

- a) The storage and use of Flammable Liquids shall be in accordance with any applicable regulations under the Frederick County Fire Code and NFPA 1
- b) Individual containers, cartons, or packages shall be conspicuously marked or labeled in an approved manner
- c) 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

## **5) Compressed Gas Handling Requirements**

- a) The vendor shall follow the provisions under the Frederick County Fire Code and NFPA 1 for Liquefied Petroleum Gases, handling, transportation, and installation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas equipment
- b) A “No Smoking” sign next to or directly above the propane container(s) and visible to the public
  - i) The sign shall be posted with a minimum of 2 inch lettering
- c) The main gas shut-off shall be marked, be in plain view, and be of quarter-turn style accessible to the exterior of the mobile food vending platform
- d) Compressed gas cylinder 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
- e) Vessels shall be affixed and secured to the portable food service platform in a manner that provides a reasonable expectation of security while parked or in transit
- f) All applicable DOT regulations shall be followed
- g) Hydrostatic test dates of all cylinders will be checked by the Fire Marshal
- h) Compressed gas tanks shall be shut off at the tank valve while the mobile food vending platform is in motion, unattended and/or in overnight storage
- i) Generator and LPG storage compartments located on the exterior of the vehicle shall be enclosed
  - i) Compartments shall have venting to the exterior and must not allow any venting to the interior of the vehicle
- j) There shall be no use or storage of LPG cylinders within the tow vehicle at any time
- k) Mounting and placement of compressed gas cylinders
  - i) The mounting of cylinders 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
  - ii) Tanks must be secured (NFPA 58-5.2.4) and conform with NFPA standards relating to the safe mounting of tanks as described in NFPA 58-6.23.3.3
  - iii) 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
  - iv) 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
  - v) If an LPG storage compartment is added on the rear of the truck, the bumper shall extend beyond the compartment to provide added impact protection
  - vi) If an LPG tank is chassis mounted, it shall be done according to NFPA 58—6.23.3.4

## **6) Electrical Requirements**

- a) The electrical equipment shall be in compliance with NFPA 70

## **7) General Requirements**

- a) The platform shall be at least 10 feet from any building, other vehicles, or combustibles unless otherwise approved by the Fire Official
- b) The platform, when parked, shall not block an emergency exit, fire hydrants, or fire department connections. Also, it shall not be parked in a fire lane
- c) All appliances must be must be listed
- d) Fryers must have lids that shall be secured during transit to prevent spillage
- e) Shall be equipped with a working carbon monoxide (CO) alarm
- f) Portable generators shall be at least 10 ft from, and positioned with the exhaust directed away from: buildings, structures, vehicles, and combustibles
- g) Awnings shall comply with flame resistance requirements of NFPA 701

# Daily Operations Checklist

Date \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

<b>General</b>	
Cooking equipment must be attended at all times	
Are all required ventilation openings open during cooking operations?	
Is the cooking hood/ventilation system free from grease?	
The platform shall be at least 10 feet from any building, other vehicles, or combustibles.	
The platform, when parked, shall not block an emergency exit, fire hydrants, or fire department connections. Also, it shall not be parked in a fire lane.	
<b>Egress</b>	
All exits from the platform shall be kept clear and unobstructed.	
<b>Fire Protection</b>	
<b><i>Fire Extinguishers</i></b>	
Portable fire extinguishers shall be in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Should the platform be a towed trailer, the extinguisher must be kept in the trailer, when operating.</li></ul>	
All employees working in the vehicle shall be trained in the proper use of the fire extinguishers.	
Fire extinguishers shall bear a current inspection tag validated within the past twelve months OR a receipt of purchase within the last 12 months shall be available for inspection.	
<b><u>Hood Fire Suppression System</u></b>	
The hood suppression system shall be charged and in operating condition, if required by the AHJ.	

<b>Fuel and Power Source</b>	
<b><i>Propane</i></b>	
The system shall be inspected prior to use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The system shall be in good condition (i.e. no leaks or rust.)</li> </ul>	
The propane tanks shall be secured and upright.	
The tanks shall be within their hydrostatic test date.	
The system shall be shut-off when not in use, or in transit.	
<b><i>Electrical</i></b>	
The electrical system, and other equipment, shall be in good working condition.	
Extension cords shall be in good condition	
<b><i>Generators</i></b>	
Shall be at least 10 feet from buildings, structures, vehicles, and combustibles.	
Generator exhaust shall be directed away from the mobile food vending platform, vehicles, buildings, structures, exits, entrances, or other openings.	
Generators shall be protected from contact by the public.	
Fuel supplies shall be properly stored.	
When refueling, generators shall be shut down, cooled down, and then refueled.	
<b><i>Solid Fuels</i></b>	
Combustible solid fuel shall be stored away from other combustibles or heat producing appliances.	
<b>Fire Debris</b>	
Ashes, cinders, and other fire debris removed at the end of the day shall be stored in a tightly covered metal container no less than 15 feet from any vehicle, structure, or other combustibles.	