



# Austin Fire Department

Fire Marshal's Office

6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr., Austin, TX 78752

[www.austintexas.gov/departments/fire-marshals-office](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/fire-marshals-office)

[AFDMobileVending@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:AFDMobileVending@AustinTexas.gov)

## Mobile Vending Unit Checklist (MVU)

Effective May 1, 2022, the Austin Fire Department will begin enforcing the 2021 International Fire Code, Section 319 Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles, with respect to Mobile Food Vending. These requirements apply only to **newly permitted** mobile vending units inspected after May 1, 2022. All Mobile Vending Units currently approved under the previous requirements will continue to be inspected under those requirements provided no significant changes are made to the mobile vending operation, no additional propane is being added, and no change of ownership. Prior to having your unit inspected, please ensure that your Mobile Vending Unit has met these conditions.

### Hood Fire Suppression Systems

Class 1 Hood Fire Suppression Systems are now mandatory as of May 1, 2022

Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspection every 6 months by a State of Texas Licensed Contractor</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current Texas State Fire Marshal inspection tag for the MVU Inspection showing passed inspection</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Class K fire extinguisher</li></ul>

### Electrical Systems

Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proper coverings for breaker boxes and junction boxes</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All wiring must be in conduit</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspection of the electrical system licensed State of Texas master electrician. See AFD Mobile Vending Electrical Inspection Form</li></ul>

Prohibited Items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of extension cords as permanent wiring</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use of electricity from a nearby structure</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improper use of electrical accessories</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overloading of circuits</li></ul>

### Location of MVU's

Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile Vending Units shall be a minimum of 10 feet to any structure</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile Vending Units shall be a minimum of 15 feet away from any fire hydrant</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generators located on the ground shall be a minimum of 12 ft away from any MVU</li></ul>



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## Prohibited Items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile Vending Units shall not block access to a Fire Department Connection (FDC)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile Vending Units shall not obstruct any entrances or exits from a structure</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exits from Mobile Vending Units shall not be obstructed</li></ul>

## Propane Containers

### Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cylinders shall meet the requirements of NFPA 58, 2020 Edition for initial service and qualifications</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The maximum total capacity of containers transported on the vehicle and used to fuel cooking appliances shall not exceed 200 pounds – manifolding of containers (for new inspections after May 1, 2022 only) is allowed not to exceed 200 lbs total.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DOT portable cylinders shall be inspected every year in a qualified service facility</li></ul>

## Propane Container Location

### Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ASME tanks shall be permanently mounted to the vehicle as required by NFPA 58, 2020 Edition.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DOT cylinders are required to be secured as to prevent cylinder(s) from leaving mount or cage in the event of vehicle crash or rollover.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cylinders need to be secured to the vehicle for inspection purposes. No Mobile Vending Units will be approved without cylinders in place.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DOT propane cylinder storage compartments shall be ventilated with at least two vents (one top of compartment and one bottom of compartment). Each vent shall have a total area equal to at least .5 square inches for each 7 lb of the total propane fuel capacity that the compartment can hold.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The relief valve discharge from the cylinder shall be a minimum of 3 ft. measured horizontally along the surface of the vehicle from:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Openings in vehicles</li><li>○ Propane burning appliance intake or exhaust vents</li><li>○ All internal combustion engine exhaust termination points</li></ul></li></ul>

### Prohibited Locations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On rear bumpers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On exterior sides of vehicles</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On roofs</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Below the lowest part of the vehicle frame</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inside improperly vented or unvented trunks or beds of vehicles</li></ul>



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- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inside passenger compartments of vehicles</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On the ground</li></ul>                             |

## **Propane Container Equipment**

Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All cooking appliances shall be listed for use with propane (UL, NSF, etc. certified).</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A listed propane detector shall be installed within the vehicle in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. A residential or recreational vehicle (RV) type of detector is acceptable</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All appliances designed for use with natural gas must be properly modified per the manufacturer's instructions for use with propane.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appliances required to be vented (by the manufacturers recommendations, usually greater than 40,000BTUs) must be converted for use with propane by a Master Plumber licensed by the Texas Railroad Commission. Documentation of proper conversion by a plumber must be provided at the time of inspection</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Piping systems, including fittings and valves shall comply with NFPA 58, 2020 Edition</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A Maximum of 60 inches of metal flex hose is allowed for each appliance to connect to hard pipe</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Piping shall be tested annually at not less than 3 psig for 10 minutes before appliances are connected and at system pressure after connection by a licensed Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Technician. See AFD Propane System Inspection Report</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Documentation of piping test, within 90 days of inspection, must be provided at time of inspection and must include<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Original document – no copies</li><li>◦ Test pressure and duration of the test</li><li>◦ Name, address, phone number, and license number of LPG Technician</li><li>◦ License plate or VIN number of mobile vending unit</li></ul></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manual shutoff valves on gas lines are required at the point of use (the appliance) and at the supply (propane cylinder)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following sign must be provided either on the appliance or outside of any enclosure CAUTION:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Be sure all appliance valves are closed before opening propane container valve</li><li>2. Connections at the appliances, regulators, and containers shall be checked periodically for leaks with soapy water or it's equivalent</li><li>3. Never use a match or flame to check for leaks</li><li>4. Container valves shall be closed when equipment is not in use</li></ol></li></ul>

Prohibited Items:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Piping cannot be located on sides, rear, or roof of the MVU</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metal flex hose must not penetrate through walls, floor or ceiling to the interior of the vehicle. Rigid pipe is required to penetrate solid assemblies.</li></ul>



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## **Fire Extinguishers**

Requirements:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mobile Vending Units are required to have a 2A-10B:C fire extinguisher</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire extinguishers are required to be mounted in a conspicuous location and accessed easily</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire extinguishers required to be serviced annually, with a current Texas State Fire Marshal Inspection tag showing passed inspection.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Solid fuel appliances with a fire box are required to have one 2.5 gallon Class K extinguishers</li></ul>