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IMPORTANT RULE CHANGES

State Rules, City Code and Division Policy Changes - Mobile Food Vendors & Associated Food Establishments



On October 8, 2015, the Austin City Council enacted new city ordinances related to the regulation of mobile food vendors. On October 11, 2015, the Texas Department of State Health Services also enacted new rules. As a result, the following changes to the rules and guidelines will be enforced.

Effective **January 1, 2016**, the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) will enforce the following changes to city ordinance and EHSD procedures.

1) City Ordinance 10-3-94, Central Preparation Facility Requirements

- **A central preparation facility operator must register with the health authority. The registration application must include the following:**

- The size of the permitted grease trap at the facility
- The number of mobile food vendors that will be utilizing the facility
- A copy of the most current health inspection report

2) All mobile food operators applying for a permit must arrive and submit a complete application and appropriate fees by 11:00 AM (Tuesday or Thursday) in order to receive an inspection by the Austin Fire Department and/or the Austin Health & Human Services Department.

Effective **April 1, 2016**, the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) will enforce the following changes to state health rules and city ordinance.

1) The new Texas Food Establishment Rules (TFER), Chapter 228, includes the following items in addition to what is already required at time of permitting:

- *Provide an original, registered Certified Food Manager certification*
- *Demonstrate unit is fully operational at the time of permit inspection, including but not limited to handwash/warewash facilities, refrigeration and wastewater disposal. Note - This only applies for the initial inspection, not renewals.*
- *Provide the most recent copy of your central preparation facility's inspection report (the central preparation facility **MUST** be registered per City Ordinance 10-3-94 in order to obtain mobile vending permit approval)*
- *Provide a copy of the mobile vending unit's menu*
- *Label the clean water and waste water tanks*

2) Summary of the Chapter 10-3-93 (D), update:

- *An unrestricted mobile vending unit must be equipped with an attached potable water container of no less than 30 gallons. A push cart type unrestricted mobile vending unit must have an attached potable water container of no less than 10 gallons; and mobile vending unit waste water containers must be sized at least 15% higher capacity than the potable water tank size installed.*