

Food Truck FAQs

Where can I find a copy of the new Mobile Food Service Ordinance?

The new food truck legislation is found in Ordinance No. 44-18 and was adopted by City Council on March 5, 2019. This ordinance will be codified in Lakewood Codified Ordinances, Chapter 743, Mobile Food Service Operation.

When do I need to register my mobile food service?

Chapter 743 Mobile Food Service Operation will go into effect on January 1, 2020. Applications for mobile food service permits will be available in the Housing & Building Department located at 12650 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio in the lower level.

What is the cost of a mobile food service permit?

Mobile food service permits are annual permits based on a calendar year, issued as of January 1 and expiring on December 31 each year. No proration of permit fees will be available.

The cost of an annual permit is \$150.00. The exception is that, mobile food service operations operating as an extension of a retail food establishment or food service located within the city of Lakewood shall be an annual permit fee of \$50.00.

What documents will I be required to submit with my mobile food service application?

- A copy of a current mobile food service operation license,
- Proof of general liability insurance, including without limitation, bodily injury and property damage, in coverage amounts of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence and naming the city as an additional insured.
- Written permission from the property owner to operate on private property, if appropriate.
- Application fee

Do I need to have my mobile food service vehicle inspected?

Yes. Once the Housing & Building Department has reviewed and accepted your mobile food service application, the Building Department shall tender the application to the Division of Fire to inspect the mobile food service vehicle to ensure compliance with then-current fire and safety standards promulgated by the Chief of Fire.

Where will the mobile food service inspections be completed?

The Division of Fire mobile food service inspections will be conducted at Fire Station No. 1 located at 14601 Madison Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio.

Do you have a copy of the check list that the Division of Fire will be using so I can review it for compliance?

Yes. The city inspection check list will be based upon the requirements set forth by the Division of State Fire Marshall in the 2017 Ohio Fire Code (OFC) Section 320.

What happens after the Division of Fire completes my mobile food service inspection?

The Division of Fire will issue a certification of compliance to the Division of Housing & Building once an applicant's inspection has been completed and approved by the Division of Fire. At this point the applicant's mobile food service application is complete and the Housing & Building Department may issue a mobile food service permit to the applicant.

The Housing & Building Department has a minimum of ten (10) days to issue a permit once the Division of Fire has issued its certificate of compliance.

How will I prove that I have a permit to operate a mobile food service in the city of Lakewood?

The Department of Housing & Building will issue a written permit to the applicant. It has not yet been determined whether or not an annual sticker or some other means of identification will be issued to be displayed on the vehicle.

Does my mobile food service permit allow me to operate anywhere in the city?

No. Chapter 741.07 has not been changed and requires that no person shall cause a mobile food service operator to operate on any public street or sidewalk within the City while it is open for normal public use. The exception to this is when operation is in conjunction with a Special event pursuant to Chapter 557 or written permission from the Director of Public Safety.

Operation on private property must only be done with permission from the private property owner.

Are there other rules I will need to follow in operating my mobile food service business?

Chapter 743.04 of the Lakewood Codified Ordinances requires that mobile food service owners:

- Do not sell to occupants of vehicles stopped in traffic
- Do not display or place information or devices on any building utility pole, planter, tree, trash container or other sidewalk fixture
- Do not place food items in or on any street or sidewalk
- Do not leave a vending device unattended at any time
- Do not utilize loud speakers or other noise-making devices to create a nuisance
- Do not conduct business without having suitable litter containers
- Display proof of permit from the city

- Operation must internally store and contain all waste water for proper disposal to prevent discharge of wastewater onto the ground or any storm water sewer within the city
- Obey lawful orders of police officer to relocate during an emergency or to avoid congestion
- Comply with all other requirements of state and local law
- Exercise reasonable care to avoid a health or safety hazard to customers or others nearby or abutting property
- Operate in compliance with the Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code
- Mobile food service businesses are subject to all of the applicable laws of the city and state.

If I sell my mobile food service vehicle, can the new owner use my permit?

No, city of Lakewood Mobile Food Service permits are not transferable.