Food Vehicles - Information for Operators

10-Rfx-032

This information applies to food vehicles from which food is sold directly to the public.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Food vehicles are mobile food premises and must comply with the *Food Act 2003* and the Food Safety Standards.

You can access these Standards on the Internet at www.foodstandards.gov.au

An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) will be happy to help you decide what your vehicle needs depending on the type of food you are going to sell.

HOW DO I GET MY VEHICLE APPROVED?

You should draw a plan of your proposed vehicle and the food preparation and sales area, showing the floor plan and sectional elevations.

You should include details of: -

- surface finishes;
- bench and shelf design and finish;
- food cooling and heating equipment;
- storage for food and food related items.

Then contact Council's Environmental Services Department on (03) 6323 3216 and make an appointment with an EHO to discuss the plans of your vehicle.

During construction and fit-out of your vehicle the EHO is available to give you advice.

The EHO will inspect the vehicle to give final approval before you start operating.

WHAT IF MY VEHICLE IS ALREADY BUILT?

If your food vehicle is already built, you can contact Council's Environmental Services Department on (03) 6323 3216 to make an appointment with an EHO who will inspect the vehicle and arrange for approval.

SO WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Food vehicles must:

- be designed to ensure that animals, birds and insects are excluded;
- be designed to prevent the entry of environmental contaminants such as dirt, dust, odours and fumes;
- have interior surfaces, including floor, walls, ceiling and benches and shelves etc, that are durable, smooth, impervious and easily cleaned, and all joints must be effectively sealed;
- be coved at floor to wall/plinth junctions;
- have all articles that are not easily moved installed so that the area underneath can be easily cleaned – preferably on legs or braced from the wall. There should be sufficient space for easy access of cleaning equipment.

LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

Town Hall St John Street Launceston Tasmania
PO Box 396 Launceston Tasmania 7250

T 03 6323 3000 **F** 03 6323 3001 **TTY** 03 6323 3003
E council@launceston.tas.gov.au **www.launceston.tas.gov.au**

- have a reliable energy supply;
- have an adequate supply of hot and cold potable water and protected from contamination;
- have an adequate wastewater container and approved means of disposal;
- have a hand basin of a size that allows easy and effective hand washing supplied with soap on tap and paper towels;
- have a rubbish bin with a tight fitting lid; and
- have adequate lighting.

WHAT ELSE MAY I NEED?

Depending on the food you intend to sell you may also require:

- refrigeration to keep food below 5°C;
- a freezer for frozen products;
- heating facilities to keep food above 60°C;
- a thermometer for regular checking of food temperatures;
- ventilation over cooking facilities; and,
- a double bowl sink.

You should also be aware that:

- your vehicle must be maintained in a clean condition;
- food must be protected from contamination at all times and must be shielded from direct sunlight;
- drinking straws, cups, spoons etc must be pre-packed or otherwise protected before use and must be disposable; and,
- sauces, mustard, cream etc must be dispensed from a squeeze-type dispenser or be in individual packs.

(These notes have been prepared to assist you in developing your food vehicle. They are not an “official” interpretation of the legislation and may alter at any time)

REGISTRATION OF A MOBILE FOOD BUSINESS

If you intend to sell potentially hazardous food, that is, food that requires temperature control to maintain its safety, you must register your food business with your local Council. This registration allows you to operate your mobile food business throughout the State. However, you must still gain the approval of the owner of the land you intend to trade from and notify the local Council.

If you wish to sell from parks or reserves in the municipality of Launceston you need written permission from the Manager for Parks and Recreation. A mobile food business can not be operated in Launceston Central Activities District without written approval from Council.

If you will not be selling potentially hazardous food registration is not required. Instead, a notification form that can be obtained from the Environmental Services Department must be filled in.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information please phone (03) 6323 3216, or visit the Town Hall Customer Service Centre.