



# CITY OF BETHLEHEM

Department of Fire  
Office of the Fire Marshal

10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018-6025

[www.bethlehem-pa.gov/fire](http://www.bethlehem-pa.gov/fire)

Phone: 610 865-7140

Fax: 610 997-5746

TDD: 610 865-7143

FIREPREVENTION@BETHLEHEM-PA.GOV

## Mobile Food Vehicle Information and Regulation Packet

- ALL Mobile Food Vehicles (trucks and enclosed trailers) must have a current Bethlehem Fire Department Mobile Food Vehicle Permit.
- ALL Vendors must have a Vendor Permit for each and every time they operate, the Vendor Permit is separate from the Mobile Food Vendor Permit

### Permits

- Mobile Food Vehicle Permit applications can be obtained by emailing [FIREPREVENTION@BETHLEHEM-PA.GOV](mailto:FIREPREVENTION@BETHLEHEM-PA.GOV) or by calling 610-865-7143 and requesting an application.
  - There are two different Mobile Food Vehicle Permit options, a single event permit and an annual permit.
    - Annual Mobile Vendor Permit- \$100.00 plus fees, valid for calendar year.
    - Single Event Mobile Vendor Permit- \$50.00 plus fees- valid for single event, not to exceed three days
  - Completed permit applications and associated documentation should be emailed to [FIREPREVENTION@BETHLEHEM-PA.GOV](mailto:FIREPREVENTION@BETHLEHEM-PA.GOV) for review.
    - Once the application is reviewed for initial compliance the applicant will be contacted by a Fire Inspector with the status of the application.
    - The applicant will need to schedule an Inspection of the Mobile Food Vehicle.
    - If the inspection is not conducted prior to the first vending event and all safety requirements are not met during the inspection, a permit will not be issued and the vendor will not be allowed to operate until all requirements are met. Inspections
  - The inspection standard for all vehicles is NFPA 1 chapter 50.7 (2018) and NFPA 96 Annex B (2016). All vehicles must meet or exceed these standards unless approved by the Fire Marshal
    - The following is a list of requirements that apply to ALL mobile food trucks and enclosed trailers. This list is not all inclusive but addresses the most common reasons vehicles do not pass inspection.
      - All trucks and enclosed trailers that produce grease laden vapors must have a Type 1 hood. (IFC 609.2) The hood must be cleaned at intervals required by IFC 609.3.3.1 through 609.3.3.3. Documentation must be provided at time of inspection.
      - All trucks and enclosed trailers that have a class 1 hood must be protected by an approved automatic fire extinguishing system installed according to this code. (IFC 904.2.1) Vendor must produce a copy of the annual test and inspection report each year. Documentation must be provided at time of inspection.



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- All cooking equipment must meet the minimum safety requirements for cooking equipment listed in NFPA 96, chapter 12. This includes, but is not limited to; the separation between fryers and surface flames must be 16 inches or must have an 8 inch high steel or tempered glass baffle plate separating the fryer and surface flames of the adjacent appliance.
- Fire Extinguisher Requirements
  1. Portable fire extinguishers shall be located in conspicuous locations where they will be readily accessible and immediately available for use.
  2. All employees working in the vehicle shall be trained in the proper use of the fire extinguishers.
  3. 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. NFPA 10
  4. Vehicles using a liquid or gas fuel source shall have a minimum 2A:20-B:C fire extinguisher.
  5. Vehicles using a solid fuel source shall have a minimum of a 6L Class "K" fire extinguisher for solid fuel. (IFC 904.11.5.1)
  6. Vehicles that have a deep fat fryer shall have a 6L Class "K" rated fire extinguisher. (IFC 904.11.5.2)
  7. In all vehicles it is recommended that there be a 2A:20-B:C and a 6L Class "K" type located within or attached to the vehicle and near means of egress.
- LPG pressure relief valves shall be located within a safe distance away from any ignition source (open flame or generator). (ie. 10 feet)
- Automatic and Manual Shutoffs. Each gas-fired appliance shall be equipped with an automatic device designed to shut off the flow of gas to the main burner and pilot in the event the pilot flame is extinguished (Modified from NFPA 58—5.20.7A). The main system shutoff valves located on or closest to the fuel tanks and sufficient to stop the supply of fuel from all fuel tanks must be clearly marked with the words "PROPANE or NATURAL GAS SHUTOFF VALVE" permanently affixed to the outside of the vehicle in reflective decal material with letters 2" high at minimum. Installed height of the Automatic and Manual Shutoff shall be no less than 20" above the top of the bumper.
- A "No Smoking" sign next to or directly above the propane container and visible to the public. Such sign shall be posted with a minimum of **2 inch** lettering.
- Only rubber hose stamped "Approved for LP Gas" or rigid black pipe shall be used to transport gas from tanks to appliances. Copper piping shall NOT be used.



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- Each Vehicle shall be equipped with a working carbon monoxide detector that meets standards set forth in NFPA 1192-6.4.6.
- Each vehicle shall be equipped with a propane detector according to NFPA 1192-6.4.8. All connections must be tested each day after turning on the propane valves.
- Mounting and Placement of Propane and Natural Gas Tanks.
  1. DOT approved LP tanks must be mounted at a minimum height of 46 inches above the ground the vehicle must have a DOT approved rear bumper.
  2. The mounting of propane and natural gas tanks 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.
  3. Tanks must be secure (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. Under these guidelines there are three permitted mounting options for propane and natural gas tanks:
    - 3.1. 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.
    - 3.2. 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 top of the bumper with a weather-protected regulator.
    - 3.3. Chassis mounted, according to NFPA 58—6.23.3.4
  4. No fuel tanks shall be installed on the roof of the vehicle under any circumstances.

## Operating at Events

- Once a Mobile Food Vendor Permit has been issued, a separate Vendor Permit must be obtained in order to operate the Mobile Food Vehicle. The Mobile Food Vehicle Permit only ensures that each Mobile Food Vehicle meets the Fire Safety requirements of the City of Bethlehem.