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**CODE COMPLIANCE GUIDELINE (effective 02/04/26)**  
**Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Safety Inspection**

Below are guidelines to be used for the Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) portion of the Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle safety inspections. This list does not cover every possible item that will be inspected, nor does meeting all the guidelines listed below guarantee that a unit will pass inspection.

Please setup an online account at: <https://eztrak.cagis.org/citizenaccess> or scan the QR code.



The Cincinnati Fire Department inspection is an operational safety inspection only of the MFPV on the date that it is inspected. It is not an approval of the MFPV's design, construction, road worthiness or an indication of the long-term safety of its combined elements. CFD reserves the right to modify these guidelines as needed.

It is advised that all electrical, ventilation and propane/natural gas piping, tanks, fittings, appliances and systems be constructed and installed by licensed bonded professionals in accordance with NFPA, DOT and Ohio Fire Code standards.

All Fire Department Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle inspections will take place after permit fee is paid and by appointment only. Please contact **Specialist Ayisha Jones (513)406-9511** or **Specialist Maurice Lang (513)703-5727** if you have any questions. You'll also need to obtain a Health Department inspection to operate. Please contact Phillip Murdock at **Philip.Murdock@cincinnati-oh.gov** or call **513-564-1753**.

Units must arrive ready for operation. All systems may be required to be demonstrated: cooking, electrical and ventilation.

### **Appropriate Paperwork:**

- Fire Inspection form with truck/trailer identification information. (VIN, SN or manufacturer ID, License Plate).
- Mobile Food Vending Pressure –Propane Leak Certification Form

### **LPG leak testing**

Per NFPA 58:16.11.3

- **16.11.3**

LP-Gas piping system leak testing shall be documented.

- **16.11.3.1**

Documentation shall be held in the mobile food facility and made available to the AHJ upon request.

Vendors that perform propane leak testing:

\*Midwest Gas, Highland Heights p. 859-441-8112\*

Commercial Parts & Services, Blue Ash p. 800-837-2828

Auxier Gas, Batavia p. 513-724-7700

\*Fuller Plumbing, Hamilton p. 513-460-5329\*

### **Propane:**

- Propane/natural gas piping must be constructed and installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Propane/natural gas lines that are routed beneath an MFVU must be constructed with rigid pipe, including piping to LP generators.
- Any propane/natural gas line that penetrates a wall/partition must be constructed of rigid piping.
- Any propane/natural gas line/connector that is not easily identifiable as to its construction or type will not be allowed and the burden of proof that it is being used according to manufacturer's recommendations will be on the MFVU owner.
- All propane tanks DOT approved (within re-qualification date) not to exceed 200lb total for all tanks. Painting of tanks that obscure tank manufacturing or qualification information will not be approved.
- All tanks securely mounted with metal to exterior of vehicle.
- Rear mounted tanks at least 30" above ground to bottom of tank.
- No quick disconnects on any exterior propane tanks (quick disconnects on chassis mounted tanks may be allowed).
- No copper lines connected to LPG tanks.
- Rubber propane hose from regulator to tank to be stamped "Approved for LP Gas 350 psi".
- Moveable-grade, braided, PVC-coated, 304 stainless steel commercial gas connector designed for use with moveable equipment and caster-mounted equipment that is moved on a regular basis for cleaning and repairing. Moveable equipment is defined in ANSI Standard Z21.69/CSA 6.16 as gas utilization equipment that may be counted on casters or otherwise be subject to movement.
- A daily propane system leak check should be performed prior to putting the unit into service and after any movement of the vehicle and after movement/change or addition of

any gas fed appliance. These leak checks shall be performed with a hand-held listed flammable gas leak detector. NFPA 17.7.2.1

- Exterior emergency shut off to stop the supply from all propane/natural gas tanks. Required emergency shut off sign.

#### **Extinguishers:**

- All units will have at least (1) 3A:40 A-B-C rated extinguisher (1A:20 A-B-C for pushcarts with fossil fuel).
- Any unit using a deep fryer electric or gas will, in addition to the above extinguisher, have at least (1) 6L type "K" wet chemical extinguisher.
- 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.

#### **Truck/Trailer Ventilation:**

- It is recommended that any unit using an appliance that produces grease laden vapors should have a Type 1 hood system installed.
- Hood systems shall be of commercial grade: inspected, cleaned and maintained per the Ohio Fire Code.
- All trucks/trailers must be equipped with a working adequate ventilation system. Small - trailers will be evaluated for adequate ventilation on a case by case basis.
- Units with deep fryers (electrical/propane/natural gas) must have a commercial/restaurant grade hood system.

#### **Attention.....Important 2025 Ohio Fire Code updates:**

1. **Permit Fee Update**, per Ohio Fire Code 105.5.32 and 319.2, all mobile food preparation vehicles are now required to pay the permit fee of \$200 (with or without fuel).
2. **Fire Protection for Cooking Equipment Updates:** Ohio Fire Code 319.4.1
  - a. **New mobile food preparation vehicles.** Vehicles that are manufactured or initially titled on or after May 1, 2026, and vehicles initially modified to operate as a mobile food preparation vehicle on or after May 1, 2026, shall not be operated as a mobile food preparation vehicle in this state unless such vehicle is protected by an automatic fire extinguishing system that is listed, labelled, installed and maintained in accordance with this section and Section 904.13.
  - b. **Existing mobile food preparation vehicles.** Mobile food preparation vehicles in operation as of the effective date of this code may continue to operate without a suppression system. Exception: If any mobile food preparation vehicle that is in operation as of the effective date of this code undergoes a substantial modification to the cooking equipment in the vehicle on or after May 1, 2026, the mobile food preparation vehicle shall be protected by an automatic fire extinguishing system that is listed, labelled, installed and maintained in accordance with this section and Section 904.13."

### **3. Please review all other updates for 2025.**

#### **Cooking Appliances:**

- All cooking appliances must be listed by Underwriters Laboratories or NSF International for mobile applications for the appropriate fuel and be clearly marked with the appropriate rating
- All deep-fat fryers shall be installed with at least a 406mm (16 in.) space between the fryer and surface flames from adjacent cooking equipment. Where a steel or tempered glass baffle plate is installed at a minimum 203mm (8 in.) in height between the fryer and surface flames of the adjacent appliance, the requirement for a 406 mm (16 in.) space shall not apply.
- Movement of appliances with casters shall be limited by a restraining device installed in accordance with the connector and appliance manufacturer's installation instructions.

#### **Detection Systems:**

- All food trucks/trailers must be equipped with a working UL listed carbon monoxide detector suitable for commercial use.
- All food trucks/trailers/push carts that use propane must have a hand-held listed flammable gas leak detector per NFPA 96 17.7.2.1.

#### **Signage:**

- Signs shall be clearly visible and of contrasting colors and shall be readable from 25 feet.
- Signs shall indicate type of fuel present
  - (1) "PROPANE"
  - (2) "NO SMOKING" inside and outside
  - (3) "EMERGENCY SHUT OFF".

#### **Electrical:**

- All wiring should meet commercial restaurant standards.
- No exposed wiring.
- Installed per NEC 70

#### **Egress/Exits:**

- Egress/exits must be adequate and unencumbered by storage, appliances or design and be located remotely from each other and not be smaller than 5.7 square feet. 2 means of egress are required per the Ohio Fire Code.

#### **Generators:**

- Must be safely mounted so as not to extend into the public right of way.
- Must be securely mounted.
- Must be mounted so as not to impact propane/natural gas systems.

## 350 PSI rated gas lines



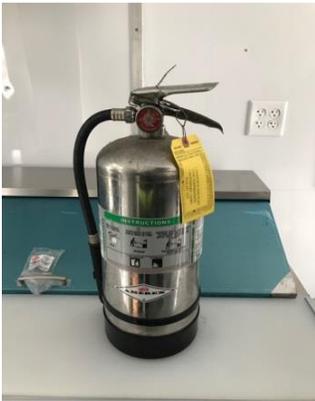
## Fuel Line Shutoff w/ 1/4 turn valve



## Required Signage



K Extinguisher (required if deep fryer is present)



ABC Extinguisher



Carbon Monoxide Detector



Hand Held Flammable Line Leak Detector



8" splash guard (should be between fryer and griddle)





## Cincinnati Fire Department Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Permit (MFPV)

All Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles are **required** to have a Cincinnati Fire Department Mobile Food Vending Unit Permit (MFPV) to operate within the City of Cincinnati. This document outlines how to use the Cagis EZtrak system. This system is utilized for all business permitting within the City of Cincinnati and aids in the process of inspection, scheduling, and permit renewal.

### **Registration and Logging in**

Register for a CAGIS EZTrak Edge account by going to <https://eztrak.cagis.org/CitizenAccess>, then click on the Register link. Registration should only take a few minutes. Once registered, you must login with the credentials just created. Follow the step-by-step guide titled Working with the Fire Food Truck Permit to submit an application. The application fee is \$200.00 (for all mobile units with/without fuel) and must be renewed annually.

### Contact Information for the CFD MVFU Program:

Specialist Ayisha Jones

513-406-9511

[Ayisha.Jones@Cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Ayisha.Jones@Cincinnati-oh.gov)

Specialist Maurice Lang

513-703-5727

[Maurice.Lang@Cincinnati-oh.gov](mailto:Maurice.Lang@Cincinnati-oh.gov)



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### **Cincinnati Fire Department Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Permit**

An annual permit is required from the Cincinnati Fire Department (CFD) to operate a mobile food vending unit; **no other jurisdiction's license will be accepted**. All MFPV's, including non-local, must obtain a permit.

### **Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles (MFPV) Safety Inspection**

All CFD Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle inspections will be by appointment only. CFD will contact vendors after their application has been received to schedule an inspection. **A permit fee of \$200.00 must be paid no later than the time of inspection.** Out-of-town vendors must obtain a permit prior to any event they are scheduled to participate in within the city limits.

### **Food Truck Responsibilities at City of Cincinnati Special Events**

Event Organizers provide code compliance guidelines to vendors. Vendors must obtain an annual CFD MFPV Permit and must also submit a CFD Application for Temporary Cooking Operations prior to the event.

ALL vendors, including non-local, must have a Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle Permit in order to participate in the event. Day of event inspection includes verification of compliance.

**\*Failing to comply will result in removal from the event. \***

### **Inspection Information**

Mobile Food Vending Unit Primary Inspector: **Specialist Ayisha Jones (513) 357-7586**

Units must arrive ready for operation. All systems may be required to be demonstrated including cooking, electrical and ventilation systems.

Sample permit and sticker: **Both the permit and the sticker must be kept in your Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle at all times.**

**Food Truck Fire Permit  
With Fuel**

Permit Number: CIN-FPFT-000673

**Permit Expiration Date: 03/31/2026**



Cincinnati Fire Department  
Division of Fire Prevention  
805 Central Avenue  
Suite 500  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

March 20, 2025

Primary Contact Information:



Food Truck/Business Name: [Redacted]

Vehicle Make: Steel pines cargo trailer

Vehicle Model: Enclosed Trailer

Vehicle Year: 2024

VIN No.: [Redacted]

General Conditions of Permit

The two Ohio Fire Codes, with the following provisions, shall mandate the following requirements regarding Mobile Food Vending:

1. Trash and combustible materials shall not accumulate and be located within 3 feet of the fuel supply.
2. A minimum of one (1) fire extinguisher, 5-pound ABC, shall be provided and all mobile food units that contain cooking equipment involving solid fuels or vegetables or animal oils and fats shall also be protected by at least one K rated portable fire extinguisher.
3. Fuel sources shall be secured in accordance with NFPA 58 and the Ohio Fire Code section on Mobile Food Units.
4. Shall not block or obstruct access to a fire hydrant or within a fire lane.

**Permits are non-transferable.** Any change, modification, or addition from the conditions of this permit must be reviewed for modifications and impact upon the conditions of the Food Truck Permit. This permit must be clearly posted in a conspicuous place, or as mandated by the Fire Code Official, and available upon request.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this permit, or when a violation is found by inspection, will result in revocation of this permit and/or issuance of a citation.



Updated: 02/09/26