



**Town of Harwich**  
**Board of Health**  
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## Mobile Food Establishment Plan Review Packet and Checklist

Name of Applicant : \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address : \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Commissary/Base of operations: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed route or location of set-up: \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of mobile food establishment unit:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Self sufficient vehicle or trailer (fully enclosed, water and waste equipped)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Not self sufficient vehicle or trailer (no water)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Push Cart or haul behind unit (not enclosed)

### Please provide the following documents:

- \_\_\_\_\_ An application for a mobile food establishment with proper fee
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of a current Food Managers Certification
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of a current Allergen Certification
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of the permit to sell ice cream from a mobile unit from the Police Department (if applicable)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of the Base of Operations/Commissary Food Service Permit
- \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed menu (includes beverages, dessert, prepackaged and prepared foods)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Floor plan of unit or set up showing each area where food or beverages are stored, prepared, or served. Identify all floor mounted and table top equipment, sinks, water heaters, generators, pumps, water tanks, hoses. Include location or accessory items not located in mobile unit such as coolers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A picture of the actual mobile unit, set up
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of Hawkers and Peddlers License
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of the complete commissary agreement
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of the complete toilet facility agreement (if applicable)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of the Zoning Board approval for site location (if applicable)

Please note that all new mobile food applications require a plan review meeting with the Food Inspector and an inspection of the mobile unit. Additionally, all new applications must be approved by the Board of Health at a regularly scheduled meeting, typically the second Tuesday of each month. The Board of Health will not review incomplete applications.

**Instructions:**

This worksheet must be completed to the best of your ability and submitted to the Health Inspector for review prior to operating a Mobile Food Establishment (MFE).

List ALL food and beverage items to be prepared and/or served at the MFE. Attach a separate sheet if necessary. (Note: Any changes to the menu must be submitted to and approved by the Health Department prior to their service.)

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List ALL of the food and beverage items to be prepared at the Base of Operations.

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Identify the sources for all food items. Include the source of the ice.

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How will food temperatures be monitored at the MFE?

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List the equipment and procedures that will be used at the MFE to maintain temperatures of PHF/TCS foods:

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Specifically identify how ready-to-eat foods will be protected from raw foods of animal origin during storage, transportation, preparation by food workers, and cooking at the MFE:

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How will food and related items that are not temperature sensitive (paper products, utensils, etc.) be stored at the MFE?

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Describe the location and set-up of the hand washing facility to be used at the MFE.

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Identify the source of the potable water supply and describe how water will be provided to the MFE.

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Identify how, how often, and how much water will be provided to the MFE. Specify the location, number, and volume of any potable water tanks to be used. Describe the procedures for cleaning and refilling the tanks.

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Identify the location, source, and capacity of the hot water supply for the MFE.

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Describe where utensil washing will take place. Describe where extra supplies of clean utensils will be stored.

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Identify which sanitizer(s) will be used at the MFE and where they will be stored.

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Describe how and where wastewater from hand washing and utensil washing will be collected, stored, and disposed of. Specify the volume and location of the wastewater collection vessels and the procedures for emptying the tanks.

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Identify the location of toilet facilities for the MFE workers.

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Describe the number, location, and types of garbage disposal containers at the MFE.

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Identify how, when, and where the garbage disposal containers will be emptied.

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Describe the structure of the MFE (floors, walls, overhead protection, surfaces, and general facilities for food protection).

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Describe how electricity, gas, propane, and other utilities will be provided to the MFE.

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Please add any information about the MFE & base of operations that should be considered.

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## **TYPES OF MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT UNITS (MFE)**

The type of MFE unit must be identified during the application review process of the operation.

### **Self Sufficient Vehicle or Trailer:**

These units are capable of preparing PHF and non-PHF foods, cooking, hot and cold storage, dry storage, utensil washing, hand washing, etc. on the unit. The unit has a self-contained potable water supply, a wastewater storage system and may have mechanical refrigeration.

### **Vehicle or Trailer that is Not Self-Sufficient:**

These units are capable of dispensing hot and cold PHF and non-PHF foods. They may be capable of hot and cold holding of PHF foods, but may not have the facilities to cook or reheat food. These units have hand washing facilities, a potable water supply, and containment for wastewater. They may not have utensil washing facilities. The servicing area may have to be used for cooking, re-heating food for hot-holding, cold and frozen food storage, dry goods storage, utensil washing, washing the MFE unit, access to potable water, and the disposal of wastewater and garbage because this type of MFE may not have the facilities for conducting these activities.

### **Push Cart or Trailer:**

These units are not self-propelled and must be hauled by a vehicle or pushed to move them from one location to another. These types of units offer limited PHF and non-PHF's. The units must be designed to safely serve designated food items from the units. These units usually have accessory components such as coolers with ice for cold holding food. Hand washing stations must be built into the cart unless a portable hand washing station is allowed by the Health Department. Potable water must be available for food use and for hand washing. A wastewater containment system must be available and used. A servicing area must be available and used for cold and frozen food storage, dry goods storage, single-service/single-use storage, utensil storage, utensil washing, cart washing, access to potable water, and the disposal of wastewater and garbage.

### **Pre-Packaged Push Carts:**

These units are limited to ONLY offering commercially prepared, non-PHF's. A servicing area must be used as a site for food storage and cart cleaning.

Additionally, each MFE shall have its business name, address, and telephone number of the person, firm or corporation responsible for its operation legibly printed in 3-inch high letters on at least two sides of the unit. The letters must be of a contrasting color from the color of the MFE unit.

## **BASE OF OPERATIONS/SERVICING AREA**

The MFE unit must be operated in conjunction with a licensed, fixed-location food establishment, licensed wholesale food processing facility, or a wholesale distribution facility at which they obtain and/or store their food and clean their vehicles.

The MFE must report daily to its base of operations for such things as: storage and preparation facilities for food products (including refrigeration and cooking facilities); the supply of potable water; the availability of adequate plumbing and waste disposal; storage and cleaning facilities for equipment and utensils; storage and maintenance of other supplies; and personnel resources. The servicing area must be of such size and scope as to accommodate its own operation, as well as those of the MFE.

If the base of operation is a licensed food establishment, that establishment must own the mobile food unit. If the MFE is not owned by the licensed food establishment, the establishment must have a valid wholesale license *or* the owner of the MFE may obtain a separate license to operate within the fixed licensed establishment.

Potentially hazardous food can only be prepared from a self contained mobile food vehicle or trailer that is equipped with hot and cold running water. Mobile food operations not equipped with an adequate water and waste system to facilitate hand-washing and the cleaning and sanitizing of utensils shall be limited to the preparation and service of frankfurters and non-potentially hazardous foods and to the sale of pre-packaged food.

## **FOOD SOURCE:**

All food must be obtained from sources that comply with law. All meat and poultry must come from USDA or other acceptable government regulated approved sources. Food must be from an approved source.

Home canned foods are NOT allowed nor shall there be any home cooked or prepared foods offered at the MFE. Licensed residential kitchens are not allowed to sell food from a MFE. Ice for use as a food or a cooling medium shall be made from potable water and obtained from an approved source.

A private home may not be used for the storage of food or related items. Food and related items can only be stored on the secured MFE unit, at the servicing area, or at the commercial establishment from which it is purchased.

The source of food on MFEs must be in compliance with Sections 3-201, 3-202 and 3-203 of the Food Code.

Mobile food operators shall retain receipts or invoices which must indicate the name of the food item, the date purchased and the name of the approved food source if using a wholesale commissary such as BJ's.

## **FOOD PREPARATION:**

All cooking and serving areas shall be protected from contamination. Open or uncovered working containers of food can be allowed at the MFE provided that the containers can be closed, covered, or otherwise protected after use or the structure of the MFE provides adequate

protection. Cooking equipment must be segregated from public access. Patrons or other unauthorized individuals must be prohibited from accessing the food operations areas.

#### **FOOD DISPLAY:**

All food shall be protected from customer handling, coughing, sneezing or other contamination by wrapping, the use of food shields or other effective barriers. Condiments must be dispensed in single service type packaging, in pump-style dispensers, or in protected squeeze bottles, shakers, or similar dispensers which prevent contamination of the food items by food workers, patrons, insects, or other sources.

#### **COOKING AND COOLING EQUIPMENT:**

The cooking and reheating equipment used on the MFE must be capable of heating all of the PHF's offered from the MFE to their required cooking temperatures within two hours or less. If proper temperatures cannot be attained using the equipment on the MFE, then cooking and reheating must occur at the servicing area and will not be allowed on the MFE. Cooking equipment must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The local fire safety authority must approve all cooking devices and their location within the MFE.

All mobile food operations selling or distributing ready-to-eat PHF's shall be equipped with an insulated mechanically-refrigerated unit, powered by the vehicle on which it travels, to maintain foods at or below 41°F. Wrapped ready-to eat PHF's such as sandwiches shall not be stored in direct contact with ice.

Mechanical refrigeration or insulated containers with ice or gel packs can be used to maintain product temperature for all foods other than ready-to-eat PHF's. Storage of packaged food in contact with water or undrained ice is prohibited.

#### **REGULATION RELATING TO THE SALE OF ICE CREAM FROM A MOBILE FOOD ESTABLISHMENT**

Anyone wishing to sell ice cream from a mobile food establishment must first obtain a permit from the Police Department. Every individual within the MFE must be permitted by the Police Department if ice cream in any form is to be sold. The permit can be obtained in the Town in which the individual lives (if within the State of Massachusetts), *or* from the Town of Harwich.