

Requirements for a Temporary Food Establishment Permit

Application: The application must be completed and submitted to this Department prior to the start of the event. This will give time for review and to make any changes as needed.

Permit to Operate: Before the event starts, an Environmental Health Specialist will visit your site compare the application to the TFE setup, and if all requirements are met a PERMIT TO OPERATE will be issued. No food service or food preparation is allowed on the site until you have received this permit. Your acceptance of this permit implies that you agree to keep the site as originally permitted throughout the event and that you agree to operate in accordance with all statutes, rules, regulations, and any specific conditions which may be included on the permit. Health Department personnel will be on duty during the event to monitor foodservice operations and to provide guidance where applicable. During operation you may be asked to remedy problems observed by the Environmental Health Specialist.

TFE Structure: Temporary food establishments must be conducted in a tent or other approved enclosure (trailer) with a roof that will keep out rain, dust, dirt, insects, and other contamination. Any canopy or tent structure under which cooking operations are being conducted must be flame resistant and have a tag permanently affixed to the canopy indicating that it is flame resistance. The food vendor should check with the local fire department for verification of the correct type of tent.

A TFE shall be located in clean surroundings and kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Protection against flies and other insects shall be provided by screening or by effective use of fans.

Sources of Food: All foods must be clean, wholesome, free from adulteration, and obtained from an approved source. If food is brought in from out-of-state it must be purchased or prepared in a facility inspected by the Department of Agriculture. ALL FOOD must be kept in original packaging until permit has been issued. Receipts will be helpful if food is not in boxes.

Transport of Foods: All foods must be protected while in transit between the source and the TFE. Transport containers must be able to maintain proper temperatures, keep out contamination, and be non-absorbent and cleanable.

Sneeze guards: Food and food contact surfaces exposed to the public, dust, or to insects shall be protected by glass, or otherwise, on the front, top, and ends.

Hamburgers and Poultry: Hamburger and poultry must be provided in a ready to cook form from the supplier. Hamburger must come in preformed in patties separated by clean paper or other wrapping material. Poultry must come from the processor precut into individual portions that are ready to cook. In other words, you can not make patties or cut chicken at the TFE. **All food must come in a ready to cook form.**

Prohibited foods: Potentially hazardous foods, such as cream-filled pastries and pies, or salads that contain potato, chicken, ham, and crab, can not be prepared or served from a TFE. Garden vegetable salads can be prepared if the vegetables are bought pre-washed from the supplier or washed on site in a vegetable prep sink only, not a utensil sink.

Food Cooking Temperatures: Cook poultry to 165°F, pork to 150°F, steak to 140°F, fish to 150°F, hamburgers to 155°F (all internal temperatures). Holding units must keep foods at or above 135°F until served.

Cold Food Temperatures: All potentially hazardous foods shall be held at 45 degrees or less. Refrigerators must have properly working thermometers. Temperatures must be monitored all during the event. If chest coolers are used for cold food storage ice shall be provided to maintain proper temperatures. The ice shall not directly touch the food. The food or ice shall be in a leak proof container. Only thaw potentially hazardous foods by refrigeration, microwave, or cooking.

Do not leave out in the open air.

Stem Thermometer: All TFE'S must provide an accurate stem-type thermometer (0-220 scale). Workers must monitor food temperatures frequently. Use the thermometer to be sure that all are cooked internally to the proper temperatures and cold foods are held <45 degrees and hot foods are held >140 degrees.

Drinks: Drinks served shall be limited to packaged, canned, or bottled drinks, packaged milk, coffee, or carbonated beverages from approved dispensing devices. Lemonade Orangeade, fresh fruit smoothies, tea, or any other drink not mentioned can not be made in the TFE but can be brought already prepared from an approved source (approved by the Health Department) and served from an approved dispensing device.

Floor: Start with a clean space and keep it clean. Concrete, asphalt, and such street surfaces are accepted. If the flooring of the TFE consist of dirt or grass this area must be maintained at all times. If grease or food is spilled onto dirt or grass clean up must take place immediately.

Storage: Nothing is allowed on the floor or ground except equipment with legs or non absorbent, empty crates. Stored items wrapped or not, must be off the floor and under roof at all times.

Cleaning of equipment and Utensils: All equipment and utensils must be cleaned thoroughly and maintained in a sanitary condition throughout the event. In order to achieve sanitary conditions at least a single vat sink, equipped with running water under pressure capable of holding the largest utensil used during the operation shall be provided. Water shall be from an approved source, safe for consumption, and of sanitary quality. This means water can not be used from an unapproved well or community water supply not regulated by the State of North Carolina. "Running water" may be achieved by positioning a cooler or beverage urn with a stop cock nozzle above the sink basin. You must have at least one drain board or adequate countertop space to use along with the washing operation. Dish pans on a counter or in a counter will not be accepted for a utensil sink. In other words, it must be a sink with a drain.

Sanitizing: After cleaning of equipment and utensils they must be properly sanitized. The most common sanitizer is bleach water. Once the equipment and utensils are washed and rinsed at the sink submerge or spray on 50 ppm of sanitizer solution and let air dry. To make sure the sanitizing solution is of proper strength test strips will be needed for checking the solution.

Hot Water: Heated water must be provided for hand wash basin and utensil sink. The minimum equipment acceptable for the provision would be a pot of water on a stove, hot hold unit, or a separate coffee maker.

Hand washing: TFE workers shall be provided with a convenient way to wash their hands. This could consist of a hand sink with hot and cold water from a faucet, Gatorade type cooler, or at minimum a wash pan or bucket. Soap and single-use towels must be provided.

Diseases: Any person who has a communicable or infectious disease that can be transmitted by food or drinks, or who is a carrier, or who has a boil, infected wound, or an acute respiratory infection with cough and nasal discharge shall not be allowed to work in the TFE. If a worker has a cut it must be bandaged and the worker must wear a disposable glove.

Hair restraints: Hair nets, visors, caps should be worn by foodservice employees at all times.

Tobacco: No tobacco is to be used in any form while handling, preparing, or serving food or while in the foodservice area.

Self-service: Customer self-service of food and condiments is not allowed. This applies to any unpackaged condiments such as lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, onions, etc. Packaged condiments such as relish, ketchup and mustard are allowed. Mustard and ketchup can also be dispensed by the customer from approved pump type dispenser.

Wastewater and Sewage: TFE wastewater and sewage must be emptied into a sanitary sewer. **Do not empty storage tanks or catch buckets into storm drains.** If the event has a contract with a portable toilet agency the wastewater and sewage may be emptied into these units. A collection bucket or other basin can be used to hold wastewater prior to disposal.

Garbage and Refuse: Garbage and refuse shall be collected and stored in standard water-tight cans provided with tight fitting lids or other approved containers or methods. Garbage and refuse shall be removed daily and disposed of in an approved, sanitary manner.

Toilets: Convenient and approved toilet facilities shall be provided at a TFE. Public toilet facilities provided on the grounds are acceptable if reasonably convenient, adequate and kept clean.

Water Source: Water must come from an approved source (public or private). All private wells must be tested a few weeks prior to the event. A backflow preventer will be required at the main source before leading off to food vendors. Then each food vendor will need a backflow preventer when attaching their food grade hose to the main source. A food grade hose is usually white with a blue stripe, if your hose does not resemble this then documentation is needed for proof of a food grade hose.

Other Permitting Conditions:

A Temporary Food Establishment (TFE) must operate in conjunction with public event such as a fair, festival, or carnival.

Mobile Food Units and Pushcarts

These units already have permits to operate, but they must comply with all the requirements of their permit when operating at the event. This means that:

The permit shall be posted so that it can be read by customers.

Food must come from the commissary identified on the permit.

The whole unit must return daily to its commissary for supplies, cleaning and servicing.

If it is impossible for the Mobile Food Unit or Push Cart permit requirements to be met, the permit will be invalid for that event. The vendor will not be allowed to operate at the event unless they can meet the TFE requirements detailed in this document and a permit obtained.

Questions?

Please contact this office at (919)989-5180 if you have questions or want to discuss any of these requirements.

**JOHNSTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICE
309 EAST MARKET STREET
JOHNSTON COUNTY LAND USE CENTER
SMITHFIELD, NC 27577
TELEPHONE: 919-989-5180
FAX: 919-989-5190**

APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY FOOD ESTABLISHMENT PERMIT

Name of set-up (ex: Dana's Concession): _____

Applicant Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Festival: _____ Set-up Location: _____

What days will you operate? _____

What hours of operation? _____

What foods will you prepare or serve? _____

Will you have screening or siding on the TFE? (circle) YES NO

If no, how will you protect against flies, insects, dust, rain and other contamination? _____

How will handwashing be addressed in the TFE? _____

Will you have a water hook-up? YES NO (If yes, must have a backflow preventer)

If no, how will the TFE supply running water under pressure? _____

How will cooking utensils, pots and pans be cleaned and sanitized at the TFE? _____

Size of wastewater storage container: _____

How will you dispose of wastewater from the TFE? _____

What is your means of refrigeration? _____

The TFE must be inspected prior to operation, how will you make yourself available? _____

If you have a mobile unit what county are you permitted in? _____

What is your License Plate Number? _____

***STATEMENT :** I hereby certify that the above information is correct, and I fully understand that ANY deviation from the above without prior approval from the Local Health Department may nullify the application.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

\$75.00 fee is required for all permitted temporary food vendors. Payment must be received prior to the event. Money will NOT be taken at the event.

Return application via fax to: 919-989-5190

And mail checks to: Johnston County Environmental Health
309 East Market Street.
Smithfield, NC 27577