

Mobile Food Establishment

The Appleton Health Department is the licensing and regulatory authority if the food establishment will be located within the corporate limits of the City of Appleton. A food establishment cannot be located in a residentially zoned district. It must be in a commercially zoned area. If not locating in the City of Appleton, contact your local public health department.

A “Mobile food establishment” is a restaurant or retail food establishment where food is served or sold from a movable vehicle, push cart, or trailer which periodically or continuously changes location. It requires a “service base” to accommodate the unit for servicing, cleaning, inspection and maintenance.

A “Service Base” is an operating base location to which a mobile food establishment returns regularly (at least once every 24 hours) for such things as vehicle and equipment cleaning, discharging liquid or solid wastes, refilling water tanks and ice bins, and boarding food.

Both the mobile food establishment and the service base are required to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Food Code (WFC), and are separately licensed. Chapter 9 of the WFC has specific requirements for mobile food establishments. The Food Code can be accessed at:

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dhs/110/196.pdf

Another document, “Steps To Starting A Restaurant” is also used for the set up of the service base. It can be accessed at:

http://www.appleton.org/i/d/health/starting_a_new_restaurant_09_2011.doc .

The City also has an ordinance regarding Central Business District Street Vendors. It is found in chapter 9, Article XI, Division 3 beginning with section 9-626. The link to the Municipal code is <http://www.appleton.org/i/p/municode.pdf> .

If the food cart will be placed on private property within the City of Appleton, a temporary use permit will be required for each property the cart will be located on unless it is part of a special event. The cost of each permit is \$75.00 and the property owner must also sign the permit. You can contact the Community and Economic Development Department at (920) 832-6468 regarding this permit when you have specific locations and dates. Other communities will have different regulations so you may want to check with each community you plan to do business in and see what their requirements are.