

**San Angelo-Tom Green County Health Department**  
**Environmental Health Services**  
**72 W. College, San Angelo, Texas 76903**  
**Phone 657-4493 Fax 657-4553**

**MOBILE FOOD VENDOR AND COMMISSARY GUIDELINES AND AGREEMENTS**

**Mobile Food Vendor** means a person who:

- 1) Travels by any conveyance or walks from place to place transporting food and offering the same for consumption with or without charge.
- 2) Without traveling from place to place, offers food for consumption with or without charge from any conveyance.

The term does not include persons making deliveries of food from food establishments operated by them or their employer to another food establishment nor does it include persons who cater\* food from a food service establishment operated by them or their employers.

\*The difference between *caterer* and a *mobile food vendor* is that a caterer sells, prepares, or delivers food that has been requested or ordered in advance. A mobile food vendor on the other hand sells, prepares, or delivers food that was not previously ordered. (Unsolicited sales)

All mobile units selling in the City of San Angelo must also obtain an itinerant vendor permit from the San Angelo Police Department. Call 657-4250. All vehicles must have current State of Texas license and inspection.

**Commissaries** are a base of operations for most types of mobile food vendors. Each mobile food establishment/vendor is required to operate from an approved commissary and report daily for all supplies, cleaning and servicing operations. A commissary is an approved site at which food preparation, storage of supplies and unit, and cleaning occurs. This site is to be fully equipped according to the Texas Food Establishment Rules and is to be regularly inspected.

The commissary may be owner/operated by you, or you may obtain permission from existing establishments to use their kitchens as your commissary. If you are using someone else's establishment, you must furnish written proof of permission from the establishment's owner/operator. For your convenience, a pre-written permission statement is included with the mobile food vending permit application. A signed commissary agreement is required for each unit at the time of initial permitting and at permit renewal (annual permit renewal).

In addition, the permit holder must maintain a log of visits to the approved commissary. The log must be written in permanent, waterproof ink, and maintained within the mobile unit at all times. Logs will be requested on a random basis. Attached to the application is a copy of the log for your use.

Also, the permit holder must obtain a Use of Restroom Agreement for Mobile Food Establishments, if applicable; a copy is also included with your application packet.

Depending on the needs of the mobile unit, commissaries may have different services available.

In general, commissaries are used to carry out the following:

- Food storage
- Food preparation (cutting, slicing, chopping to name a few)
- Fresh water supply using a food grade water hose system
- Mobile unit cleaning facilities
- Ware washing facilities
- Garbage disposal
- Grey water disposal
- Chemical storage
- Mobile unit storage

State law prohibits you from using your home as your commissary, and you may not store any food, nor wash any utensils in your home kitchen or store food overnight in the mobile food unit. Mobile vending units equipped with water and wastewater retention tanks must be serviced daily.

Waste water from Mobile Vending Units must be disposed of into an approved sewer system. If the unit generates any oil or grease containing waste water, disposal must be into an approved grease interceptor (grease trap). Contact the Plumbing inspection division of City of San Angelo Permits and Inspection Department 657-4420.

**Pushcart** means a non self-propelled mobile food vending unit which can be easily pushed or pulled by one person. Such units are limited to serving non-potentially hazardous food or potentially hazardous foods requiring a limited amount of preparation as authorized by the Health Department.

**Restricted mobile food vendor** do not require a permit. A mobile food vendor that offers **only** prepackaged food that is non-potentially hazardous and does not require temperature control does not require a health permit. Prepackaged ice cream and prepackaged ice products are self destructing if temperature is not maintained, therefore they also do not require a permit.

**Unrestricted mobile food vendor** means a mobile food vendor offering or preparing food that requires temperature control.

**Permits** for unrestricted mobile food vendors must be obtained before operating inside the city limits of San Angelo. Permit applications can be obtained at the Health Department at 72 W. College 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, San Angelo, Texas from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. or on the web at [www.cosatx.us](http://www.cosatx.us) Home>City Departments>Health>Environmental Health. Permits expire annually on January 31st, and must be renewed at that time.

**NOTE: A copy of the food permit must be prominently displayed and easily viewable from the street during operating hours.**



**Note:** The purpose of this document is to provide only basic information and answer commonly asked questions.

When your mobile vending unit meets all of the requirements, call 657-4493 to schedule an appointment for the vehicle to be inspected. Inspections are made by appointment only. If the unit passes the inspection, a permit will be issued. If the unit does not meet the requirements, an additional inspection will be made at no additional cost to the applicant. Permits issued are non-transferrable upon change of ownership and/or location of commissary or mobile unit. In the event a permit is not issued you may request a refund of the application fee.

**City Ordinance Sec. 7.206**

- (a) A mobile food establishment must comply with all the requirements of Section 229.169 of the Texas Food Establishment Regulations.
- (b) In addition, a mobile food establishment shall comply with the following additional regulations:
  - (1) A mobile food establishment shall not operate from the same location for more than three consecutive days.
  - (2) A mobile food establishment may utilize a temporary electrical hookup but shall not have a permanent connection to electricity.
  - (3) If a mobile food establishment operates from a stationary location, restroom facilities must be available within 100 feet of the establishment.
    - (A) Restroom facilities shall have a properly connected flush toilet, hot and cold running water, soap and towels.
    - (B) If the restroom facilities are not owned by the operator of the mobile food establishment, the operator must have written permission from the owner of the restroom facilities to use the facilities.
  - (3) A mobile food establishment shall be serviced from its central preparation facility at least once per week or more often if necessary to empty waste tanks and refill with potable water.
    - (A) The operator of a mobile food establishment shall keep a log of servicing at the central preparation facility.

