

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

NEW HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR VEHICLE FOOD VENDORS

MOBILE FOOD FACILITY – CATEGORY A (MFF-A)

ICE CREAM TRUCKS AND PRODUCE TRUCKS

Purpose

The purpose of this bulletin is to update owners of vehicles that sell food (Mobile Food Facility—MFF) of health permit regulations relating to new height requirements for vehicles that are occupied during operation/sales.

Issue



In 1996 the California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law was changed to require that:
*“Mobile food facilities that are **occupied during normal business operations** shall have a clear, unobstructed height over the aisle-way portion of the unit at least 188 centimeters (74 inches) from floor to ceiling, and a minimum of 76 centimeters (30 inches) of unobstructed horizontal aisle space.”*

This new section does **not** apply to vehicles under permit prior to January 1, 1996.

What This Means To You

Beginning January 1, 2006, all newly permitted MFF vehicles are required to be 74 inches from floor to ceiling and have a minimum of 30 inches unobstructed horizontal aisle space if you work in the interior of the vehicle.

MFF vehicles under continuous permit to the same owner since January 1, 1996, do not have to meet this requirement as long as the permit continues under that same owner.

Questions and Answers

Below you will find common questions and answers:

If I buy a vehicle that is not 74 inches high and get it permitted before January 1, 2006, can I still get a permit in 2006?

Yes, if your vehicle meets all the requirements listed under “General Requirements for Vehicle Food Vendors” on the back of this page. However, after January 1, 2006 no other owner of that vehicle will be allowed to operate the vehicle for food sales.

If I have had a permit since 1995, but I changed out the vehicle in 1998 to one that does not meet the height and width requirements, can I still get a permit?

Yes, if your vehicle meets all the requirements listed under “General Requirements for Vehicle Food Vendors” on the back of this page. However, no other owner of that vehicle will be allowed to operate the vehicle for food sales.

If my vehicle is 7 feet tall, can I get a permit?

Yes, if the **interior** of the vehicle is 74 inches from **floor to roof** (6 ft. 2 in.). All other requirements must also be met prior to permit issuance.

Continued on reverse

**Questions
and Answers
(continued)**

Why do I need a permit?

California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law, part of the California Health and Safety Code, requires that all food facilities (including mobile food vendors) have a valid permit issued by the local enforcement agency. Operating without a valid permit may result in citation and other enforcement actions.

How do I get a permit for my ice cream truck or produce truck?

If your vehicle meets all of the requirements listed below, bring it to this office (address listed on the front page) Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Complete the application, pay a yearly permit fee, and your vehicle will be inspected to see that it meets all requirements. If your vehicle passes inspection, you will be issued a permit sticker. The permit sticker is valid for one year. You will receive a bill for the annual permit fee the following year. When you receive a bill, come to the office between 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday to pay the annual fee and have an inspection of your vehicle at the same time. If the vehicle meets all requirements, you will be issued the permit sticker.

What if I don't sell food any longer?

If you no longer own the vehicle or are no longer operating the vehicle as an MFF-A vehicle, please contact this office so you can be listed as closed. If you want to sell food again in the future, your vehicle will have to meet all current requirements at that time.

**General
Requirements
for Vehicle
Food
Vendors
(MFF-A)**

Some of the requirements you must meet include:

- Business name, city, state, zip code and permittee name permanently affixed to both sides of the vehicle. Business name shall be in letters at least three (3) inches high. All others letters must be at least one (1) inch high.
- Interior of vehicle must be smooth and easily cleanable – no carpeting, no bare wood, no curtains.
- Freezer or refrigerator is smooth, easily cleanable and able to maintain proper temperatures (maximum temperatures of 41 F for cold items and 32°F for frozen items).
- All ice cream, candy, soda, and chips are prepackaged and obtained from an approved facility. All produce is whole and uncut.

This is not a complete list of requirements. A complete list of requirements may be found on our website (see address below) under Forms/Documents, Environmental Health Documents, California Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law, Chapter 11 Mobile Food Facilities. You may also call (916) 875-8440.

**For More
Information**

For additional information and assistance, contact the Environmental Health Division at (916) 875-8440 between 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 am Monday – Friday, email eminfo@saccounty.net, or visit the EMD web site at: <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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