



House Bill 2878 (2023): Mobile Food Unit (MFU) Inspections

Frequently Asked Questions

The DCHHS Environmental Health Division plays a critical role in monitoring and mitigating environmental hazards that can impact public health. This includes inspections, permits, and enforcement actions related to food safety, water quality, air pollution, and hazardous materials. We work closely with community partners and businesses to ensure compliance with health regulations and promote a clean and safe environment for everyone.

How does House Bill 2878 impact Mobile Food Unit inspections?

House Bill 2878 was passed by the Texas State Legislature and became effective as of September 1, 2023. Under the new legislation, Mobile Food Unit (MFU) operators must obtain a “county-wide” MFU permit from Dallas County’s Health and Human Services Environmental Health Division to operate in Dallas County pursuant to Tex. Health & Safety Code Section 437A.003.

Only the county may issue a county-wide MFU permit. DCHHS is working to enter into contracts with local cities so that MFU inspections may be conducted at additional locations throughout the county.

What is the purpose of House Bill 2878?

The purpose of House Bill 2878 is to streamline the permitting process for Mobile Food Units (MFUs). Previously, MFUs were required to obtain a permit for each city they wished to operate in, which resulted in administrative and financial barriers for many MFUs. HB 2878 aims to streamline the permitting process by only requiring MFUs to obtain a single, county-wide permit.

How do I apply for a Mobile Food Unit permit with Dallas County?

1. Download the application packet, complete it, and print the packet. The application packet is available here: [APPLICATION PACKET](#)
2. Once you have the necessary items listed in the Mobile Food Unit Checklist, call our office at (214) 819-2115 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are required for all inspections.
3. Bring all necessary items listed in the Mobile Food Unit Checklist to your scheduled appointment. Another appointment will be required if the checklist is not complete, and/or you are missing any item on the list.



Do I have to pay two permitting fees?

You are only required to pay one fee for the county-wide permit. However, you will also be required to pay additional fees for the inspection. The DCHHS fee schedule is located here: [FEE SCHEDULE](#)

Please note that these fees are only for the public health food inspection and permit. Depending on the city you operate in, a fire and safety inspection may be required. Additional fees for the fire and safety inspection are at the discretion of the city.

How long will the permit be valid?

The county permit is valid for one year from issued date.

Are there any other inspections that will be required?

Please contact the city or cities of operation for any additional inspections, requirements, or fees.

When do I need a fire inspection?

You will need a fire inspection if your mobile food unit uses a propane tank or anything flammable.

How often will I get inspected once I obtain a Dallas County Mobile Food Unit Permit?

The MFU is subject to periodic and unannounced inspections by the county.

Where do I apply for a Texas Sales Tax & Use Permit?

You can apply for a Sales and Use Tax permit here: [SALES AND USE TAX PERMIT](#)

Do roadside vendors need to obtain a Mobile Food Unit permit with Dallas County Environmental Health?

Yes, roadside vendors are required to have a Mobile Food Unit permit. Roadside vendors need to follow the same permitting procedures as for Mobile Food Units, described above.



DCHHS
Dallas County Health and Human Services
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Health and Social Equity*



Do I need a Food Manager Certification if I'm only serving corn and/ or nachos on a pushcart or mobile food unit?

Yes.

Do I need to have a 3 compartment sink on corn carts?

Yes. However, variance is allowed with Notarized Commissary of (3) compartment sink being used.

Is there a Spanish Speaker on site to translate?

Yes.