

June 26, 2019

Bulletin 2019–001-FI

Mobile and Temporary Food Vending Operations

This bulletin clarifies the requirements for commercial cooking equipment used in structures other buildings where the Building By-law applies.

Background

Commercial kitchen exhaust and fire protection systems must be installed to NFPA 96 standard in accordance with the Fire By-law. Cooking equipment used in fixed, mobile, or temporary concessions, such as trucks, buses, trailers, pavilions, tents, or any form of roofed enclosure, shall comply with this standard unless all or part of the installation is exempted by the authority having jurisdiction (Section 4.1.9. of NFPA 96, 2014 and 2017 editions).

Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) has examined NFPA 96 and has determined when all or part of the installation may be exempt from NFPA 96.

Requirements of NFPA 96

The requirements for mobile and temporary food vending operations vary widely depending on the type of cooking, the structure in which it takes place, the duration of the food vending operation, and the specific location in relation to other structures. VFRS has classified mobile and temporary food vending operations into various categories with varying requirements as shown in the document “Food Vending Operations – Fire Protection Guideline”.

Procedure for Vancouver Fire Rescue Services Approval

There are four paths in which mobile and temporary food vending operations are approved in the City, depending on their locations.

Location	Approval Processed through
City street or sidewalk	Engineering Services Department – Street Vendor Program
Special event on public streets and plazas	Vancouver Engineering - Film and Special Events Branch
Special event within city parks	Vancouver Park Board Special Events and Filming Office
Special event on private property	Development Building Licensing Department – License Office

In each of the four paths, pre-approval or fire inspections by the fire department is not necessary. However, each vendor must complete all of the applicable documents indicated below and follow the requirements described in the documents prior to commencing operation.

The following documents are available for download from the City website:

- 1) Vendors Checklist
- 2) Fire Protection Guideline
- 3) Fire Safety Plan
- 4) Schedule 1 (if applicable), and
- 5) Schedule 2 (if applicable)

All of the documents must be completed by the vendor and must be retained on site for inspection by VFRS. Each new location or new event will require a separate Fire Protection Guideline to be completed.

Note all permanent propane or natural gas installations must be inspected and approved by Technical Safety BC.

Also note that other municipalities in the Lower Mainland may have a pre-approval and inspection procedure for food trucks operating in their jurisdiction. Food trucks inspected and approved by these other municipalities are permitted to operate in Vancouver provided the VFRS documents “Vendors Checklist” and “Fire Protection Guideline”, are completed before commencing operation, and retained on site.

Inspections

It is not necessary to contact VFRS for inspections of the food vending operation prior to starting operation. VFRS may conduct random site inspections for compliance with the Fire By-law.

Note the Ticket Offences By-law authorizes the Fire Chief to issue municipal tickets against persons in the amount of up to \$750 per day that a mobile or temporary food vending operation is found to be in violation of the Fire By-law.

Signed,

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