



# CITY OF CHICAGO



## CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

444 N. DEARBORN, CHICAGO IL 60654  
MOBILE FOOD VEHICLES (MFV)

### FIRE SAFETY PERMIT CONSULTATION PACKET

All mobile food vehicles must apply for a fire safety permit issued by the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) if they utilize the following: a gasoline, diesel, or propane supplied electric generator; any mobile food vehicle using propane or compressed natural gas with a Type I or Type II exhaust hood or fire suppression system. To obtain a fire safety permit, mobile food vehicle owners must complete a process that begins in the initial consultation with a business consultant at the City's Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection:

**Step 1) BACP Meeting.** In your initial meeting with a business consultant, the consultant and the Health Sanitarian will determine if you need to obtain a fire safety permit from CFD.

**Step 2) Vehicle Plans.** Using the same process required of brick-and-mortar businesses by the Fire Department, applicants should have the company that designed their vehicle's fire suppression system submit vehicle plans to the CFD on company letterhead. Submissions direct from unlicensed individuals will not be acceptable. The vehicle owner must include a \$150 check or money order (non-refundable) payable to the City of Chicago- Department of Revenue with these plans for processing. CFD personnel will review the plans to determine if the vehicle's fire suppression system meets fire safety requirements.

- Vehicle plans should be addressed to  
*In this packet you will find:*
- Mobile Food Vehicle Fire Safety Specifications

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Chicago, IL 60654

**Step 3) Inspection.** If the applicant's suppression system plans are approved, an initial inspection will be conducted by Fire Department personnel in conjunction with the Health Department. The checklist enclosed here is your guide to initial and subsequent inspections.

*In this packet you will find:*

- Mobile Food Vehicle Fire Safety Inspection Checklist

**Step 4) Permit Application.** If the applicant's vehicle passes inspection, the applicant will submit an additional \$100 check or money order (non-refundable) payable to the City of Chicago-Department of Revenue along with the fire safety permit application below. Once approved, the final fire safety permit must be kept in the vehicle at all times.

*In this packet you will find:*

- Mobile Food Vehicle Fire Safety Permit Application

**NOTE: Propane Handling Training.** All mobile food vehicles must have a person trained in handling and exchanging propane tanks on board at all times. At present, this training is a stand-alone course instructed by the Chicago Fire Department- Fire Prevention Bureau. Contact your BACP consultant, or 312-74-GOBIZ (744-6249), for more information regarding this course.

- All Mobile Food Vehicle Owners should acquire a Combustible Gas Detector for daily checking for LP/CNG leaks on your vehicle.
- Combustible Gas Detector handheld units can be acquired from supply stores within the area (e.g. Sears, Grainger, Lowes, etc.). The units range in price. Listed below are examples of Gas Detectors that would be good for testing LP/CNG leaks:
  - o TIF-TIF8800X Combustible Gas Detector
  - o Sensit Gas-Trac NG- Combustible Gas Detector

Several manufacturers have similar units that meet the same specifications for LP/CNG leaks.

### Mobile Food Vehicle Fire Safety Specifications and Practices: (FSS &PI

*NOTE: The Chicago Fire Department reserves the right to amend these safety regulations. These regulations shall remain in force at least until comprehensive mobile food vehicle fire safety regulations are adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).*

\*All below citations reference NFPA 58-2011, unless otherwise noted\*

Part 1. Compliance. To be considered in proper working order by the fire and health departments, mobile food vehicles must adhere to the below specifications and approved fire safety plans, and be supervised by a person possessing a CFD-approved propane handling certification at all times. A fire safety permit application and subsequent inspections must demonstrate compliance with these specifications.

Part 2. Propane and Natural Gas Tanks. Only U.S. Department of Transportation-approved models of propane and natural gas tanks (49 CFR 178) may be used on mobile food vehicles. Tanks must be properly labeled with prominent safety placards in accordance with U.S. DOT regulations (49 CFR 178). Tanks must be equipped with a regulator as prescribed by NFPA 58-6.23.4 and 5.2.15. No quick-connect devices (as defined in NFPA 58-7.2.2.5) are allowed, except on chassis-mounted tanks. Any such quick connect devices on chassis mounted tanks shall be equipped with a manual shutoff.

Part 3. Manufacturer Specifications. Mobile food vehicle operators must follow manufacturer specifications and best practices for their vehicle as configured in their fire safety permit, especially with respect to weight distribution.

Part 4. Mounting and Placement of Propane and Natural Gas Tanks. The mounting of propane and natural gas tanks must withstand impact equal to four times the weight of the filled propane or natural gas container according to NFPA 58-6.23.3.4. Tanks must be secure (NFPA 58-5.2.4) and conform with NFPA standards relating to the safe mounting of tanks as described in NFPA 58-6.23.3.3. Under these guidelines there are three permitted mounting options for propane and natural gas tanks:

- a. Outside mounted in a semi-enclosed cabinet, with vents at the top and bottom to facilitate the diffusion of vapors, vapor-tight to the interior of the vehicle, with a weather-protected regulator and a leak indicator as described in NFPA 1192-6.4.8.
- b. Outside mounted, secured on top and bottom and stabilized (e.g. with a strap), vapor-tight to the interior of the vehicle, mounted no less than 28" above the top of the bumper with a weather-protected regulator.
- c. Chassis mounted, according to NFPA 58-6.23.3.4

No gas tanks shall be installed on the roof of the vehicle under any circumstances. In addition, no flammable liquids should be stored inside the vehicle. Such liquids may only be stored in

their own separate container in a manner consistent with propane and natural gas mounting specifications.

**Part 5. Cooking Equipment.** All cooking appliances must be listed by Underwriters Laboratories or NSF International for mobile applications for the appropriate fuel and be clearly marked with the appropriate rating sticker. All fat fryers must have a lid over the oil vat that can be secured in order to prevent the spillage of cooking oil during transit. This lid should be secured at all times when the vehicle is in motion.

**Part 6. Propane and Natural Gas Usage.** Propane and natural gas tanks shall be shut off while mobile food vehicle is in motion, unless the tank is equipped with an impact detection shut off device approved by the U.S. DOT. Propane and natural gas tanks must always be shut off while the vehicle is unattended and/or in overnight storage.

**Part 7. Automatic and Manual Shutoffs.** Each gas-fired appliance shall be equipped with an automatic device designed to shut off the flow of gas to the main burner and pilot in the event the pilot flame is extinguished (Modified from NFPA 58-5.20.7A). The main system shutoff valves located on or closest to the fuel tanks and sufficient to stop the supply of fuel from all fuel tanks must be clearly marked with the words "PROPANE AND NATURAL GAS SHUTOFF VALVE" permanently affixed to the outside of the vehicle in reflective decal material with letters 2" high at minimum. Installed height of the Automatic and Manual Shutoff shall be no less than 20" above the top of the bumper. Piping shall meet the requirements of part 12 of this document.

**Part 8. Fire Suppression System and Extinguishers.** All mobile food vehicles must be equipped with a working Ansul R-102 or K Class automatic fire suppression system according to NFPA 96-10.2.1 and 10.2.2, which is regularly maintained according to NFPA 96-11.2.1 for the lifetime of the vehicle. All vehicles must also be equipped with no less than one 10 BC-rated fire extinguisher, or, if a deep fryer is present in the vehicle, a Class K fire extinguisher. Extinguishers must have current annual inspection tags as outlined by NFPA 10 and Chicago City Code.

**Part 9. Kitchen Exhaust Hood.** Each mobile food vehicle that uses propane or natural gas for cooking must be equipped with a Type I or Type II commercial kitchen exhaust hood as defined by Chapter 18-28, Article 5 of the Mechanical Code of the City of Chicago. Exhaust hoods must be inspected semi-annually by a licensed HVAC professional to ensure continuing maintenance and upkeep.

**Part 10. Ventilation System.** The truck must also be equipped with a working ventilation system that meets the requirements of NFPA 96, Chapter 5. This ventilation system must be in operation at all times when the cooking equipment of the truck is being used. All fan systems in the cooking area of the truck must have a minimum combined cubic feet per minute rating equal to twice the volume of the interior of the truck as measured in cubic feet.

**Part 11. Detection systems.** All mobile food vehicles must be equipped with a working carbon monoxide detector that meets standards set forth in NFPA 1192-6.4.6. All cabinet-mounted tanks must be equipped with a leak indicator according to NFPA 1192-6.4.8.

**Part 12. Piping.** All propane and natural gas piping must be constructed and installed in accordance with NFPA 58-6.23.5. All propane and natural gas pipes and fixtures must be made of steel, copper or brass. No plastic or rubber piping of any kind will be permitted in the truck for any purpose.

**Part 13. Electrical Appliances and Generators.** All electrical equipment and appliances must be installed in accordance with NFPA 70. Only "in-line" electrical generators that are powered by a manufacturer-installed fuel line taken directly from the MFV's main fuel tank may be used on mobile food vehicles. All other types of generators, including, but not limited to portable stand-alone and separate-fill generators may not be used.

**Part 14. Certificate of Safety.** All mobile food vehicles with a GWR of 8,000 pounds or greater must obtain and keep current a Certificate of Safety as issued by the Illinois Department of Transportation in accordance with state law (625 ILCS 5).

**Part 15. List of Required Warning Labels, Placards and Tags.** The following placards and tags, some mentioned elsewhere in these specifications, must be prominent and visible on the interior or exterior of the mobile food vehicle as appropriate. All signs must conform to U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines as outlined in the North American Emergency Response Guide or successor publication, or specific organizational requirements outlined here.

- a. OSHA-approved propane or natural gas 3-in-1 hazard sign placed on the outside of the vehicle as close to the tank as possible, which should include no-smoking warnings in both English and Spanish.
- b. Shutoff valve markers as outlined in Part 7.
- c. Current annual inspection date tags on fire extinguishers.
- d. UL or NSF International certification sticker for mobile applications and proper fuel source on every cooking appliance.

**Part 16. Pending NFPA Regulations.** Future vehicle specifications and permitting processes may reflect the adoption of comprehensive fire safety rules by the NFPA for mobile food vehicles.



# CITY OF CHICAGO



## CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

444 N. DEARBORN, CHICAGO IL. 60654

### MOBILE FOOD VEHICLE (MFV) INSPECTION CHECKLIST

BUSINESS NAME: _____	DATE: _____
BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____	CITY, STATE ZIP _____
OWNER: _____	DL# _____ ST: _____
OWNER ADDRESS: _____	CITY, STATE ZIP _____
TELEPHONE#: _____	CELL PHONE# _____
ILL STATE CERTIFICATE OF SAFETY#: _____	PROJECT# _____
MFV LICENSE PLATE# _____	IL DEPT. REV. ACCOUNT# _____
COMMISSARY /SERVICE LOCATION: _____	FIRE SAFETY PERMIT# _____

#### NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Your attention is respectfully called to the violations of the provisions of the following code of ordinances of the City of Chicago, issued to the mobile food vehicle owner registered with the Chicago Fire Department at the above address. The violations discovered on or relating to this mobile food vehicle include, but may not be limited to, the violations to the listed on this report. Additional violations may be discovered during subsequent inspections.

#### EXTERIOR

LP/CNG Tanks:  1- 40 pound DOT tank     2 - 20 pound DOT tanks

Labeled LP/CNG Tank Shut offs:  Yes  No

#### Mounting of CNG / LP Tanks

Rear Bumper - Proper Height & Enclosure - Hard Piped per Fire Specifications and Practices (FSS & P) Part 12 - NFPA 58 - 6.23.5

## EXTERIOR

Cabinet Mounted – Proper Enclosure and LP Detection System – Hard Piped per Fire Specifications and Practices (FSS & P) Part 12 – NFPA 58 - 6.23.5

Chassis Mounted – Hard Piped per Fire Specifications and Practices (FSS & P) Part 12 – NFPA 58 - 6.23.5

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CNG/LP Regulator protected from weather:  Yes  No

## APPLIED WARNING LABELS - PLACARDS AND TAGS

NAME OF MFV: 2 -inch Minimum:  Yes  No

Name of Responsible Party/Owner:  Yes  No

No Smoking Signage (English/Spanish)  Yes  No

OSHA 3-IN-1 HAZARD:  Yes  No

## GENERATOR

Mounting Location (Sector) of Generator:

1  2  3  4

Is the Generator separated from nearby combustibles  Yes  No

**Generator Powered by:**

Diesel  LP

Gasoline Supply Hard-lined plumbed from Main Fuel Tank

## AWNINGS

**Awnings Mounted in Sector:**

Yes                      Location of Awnings?     2     4             No Awnings

Awnings Fire Treated:                                       Yes     No             No Awnings

### FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE

Location of flammable liquids and other fire hazards, proper storage location:     Yes     No

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### INTERIOR

MFV Floor Plan Posted on Board:     Yes     No

Propane Records on Board:             Yes     No

Maintenance Records on Board:         Yes     No

Suppression System: Ansul R102:         Yes     No

  "K" Class:     Yes     No

Portable Extinguishers: 3A-10BC:         Yes     No

  "K" Class:     Yes     No

Ventilation System:             Yes     No

Exhaust Hood:                   Yes     No

Roof Mounted Vents:     Yes     No

Number of Roof Mounted Vents:     1     2     3     4

Ceiling Construction: Stainless     Tile     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Wall Construction:            Stainless     Tile     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Construction:            Stainless     Tile     Other \_\_\_\_\_



Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detector Installed:  Yes  No

**INGRESS /EGRESS POINTS**

Egress points unencumbered:  Yes  No

**APPLIANCES**

Propane/CNG appliances clearly marked with NSF, ULS, ETL labels.

Yes  No

Closeable Lid/s on frying Appliance/s:  Yes  No

**VIOLATION SECTION**

Failure to maintain the 40 pound LPG limit (Maximum 2-20# or 1-40# cylinder) on MFV.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to have a multi-gas detector on board the MFV.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to have an authorized licensed owner/operator on MFV.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to have a Fire Safety Permit on board the MFV.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Expired or missing City of Chicago MFV sticker or IDOT Certificate of Safety

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to post approved **vehicle design plans** or make **permit application** available to inspectors

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Unauthorized modifications** to mobile food vehicle not approved in fire safety permit

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to maintain **proper pathway for egress**

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to **remove extra LP/CNG tanks** from interior/ exterior of MFV.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to **remove flammable liquids and other fire hazards** from interior of MFV.

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to operate vehicle in accordance with **manufacturer specifications**

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to **mount and assemble** propane or natural gas system

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to **properly clean and maintain** propane, natural gas or fire suppression system

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Missing or Inoperative automatic and manual **shutoff devices**

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Missing, insufficient, inoperative **fire extinguishers** or **carbon monoxide/gas leak detectors**

Description: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

