

GENERAL INFORMATION

A mobile food unit is defined in OAR 333-162-0000(31) as “...*any vehicle that is self-propelled, or which can be pushed or pulled down a sidewalk, street or highway, on which food is prepared, processed or converted, or which is used in selling and dispensing food to the ultimate consumer.*” There is no size limit to mobile food units, except they must meet the following requirements:

- The unit must be a vehicle and not require a special permit from the Oregon Department of Transportation to be moved.
- Mobile food units must be mobile at all times during operation. There is no requirement to move the unit at specific intervals, however, the unit must be on wheels at all times and have no permanent connections to any utility service (including water, sewer, or electric).
- The unit and all operations and equipment must be integral to the unit. This precludes the use of a barbecue with a Class III or IV unit, nor the use of 12 cubic feet of storage on any class of unit.

There are four types of mobile food units. The mobile food unit classifications are based upon the type of menu served.

CLASS I – These units can sell only intact prepackaged foods and dispense non-perishable beverages. No dispensed ice is allowed. No preparation or assembly of food items is allowed.

CLASS II – These units may dispense unpackaged foods. However, no cooking, preparation or assembly of foods is allowed on the unit.

CLASS III – These units may cook, prepare and assemble food items. However, no raw-to-finish cooking of animal foods is allowed on the unit.

CLASS IV – These units may serve a full menu.

Please keep in mind that because mobile food unit design is related to the menu served, any change in the menu must be approved by the health department. Failure to obtain approval for a menu change may result in closure of your unit.

Prior to licensure by the health department, there may be other agencies from which you will be required to obtain approvals. These include, but are not limited to planning (zoning), building codes (structural, electrical, plumbing, prefabricated structures), fire marshal, or city or county authorities.

In particular, mobile food units in which the operator occupies the inside of the unit and the unit stays in one location for more than 30 days must undergo plan review and receive approval from the Prefabricated Structures Section of Building Codes Division. Please call (503) 378-4133 to obtain approval. Health department approval does not imply that your unit meets other agency codes.

Finally, while this document contains some detailed information about the rules for the construction and operation of mobile food units, it does not contain all the requirements for your unit. Please refer to the Mobile Food Unit Rules http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/OARs_300/OAR_333/333_162.html for all the requirements.