

Cardinal Joint Fire District Mobile Food Truck/Trailer Regulations

The following mobile food truck codes were taken from the 2017 Ohio Fire Code and CJFD Temporary Occupancy Codes:

I. Definition

Any apparatus or equipment that is used to cook, prepare or serve food, and that routinely changes or can change location and is operated from a moveable vehicle or apparatus, including but not limited to motorized vehicles, trailers, and hand-propelled carts.

II. Basic Safety Measures

A. Blocking Fire Protection Equipment

Mobile food units cannot block fire lanes, fire hydrants, or other fire protection equipment.

B. Operation of LP-Gas fueled equipment while in transit

LP-Gas fueled equipment cannot be operated while the mobile food unit is in transit.

C. Carbon monoxide detection

All mobile food units must have at least one (1) listed carbon monoxide detection device. The only exception to this rule is for open-air hand-propelled carts.

D. Portable fire extinguishers

All mobile food units are required to have at least one (1) **5-pound ABC** portable fire extinguisher.

Any mobile food unit that utilizes cooking equipment involving solid fuels or vegetable or animal oils and fats must also have at least one (1) **Class K** rated portable fire extinguisher. This is in addition to the one 5-pound ABC extinguisher that is required in all mobile food units.

E. Egress

All mobile food units that operate commercial cooking equipment must have at least two means of egress which are remotely located from each other. The means of egress cannot be smaller than 5.7 square feet.

F. Smoking

Smoking is prohibited inside all mobile food units. If a mobile food unit has a fuel source other than the vehicle fuel tank, smoking is also prohibited **within 10 feet of the unit**.

All mobile food units must have “no smoking” signs conspicuously posted **inside** the vehicle. All mobile food units must also have “no smoking” signs **outside** the unit in the vicinity of any location where compressed gas is stored or kept. The sign(s) must be visible to the public.

All “no smoking” signs must be in English and must have a dark background with lettering in a contrasting color. The lettering must be at least 4 inches tall and have a minimum brush stroke width of 1 inch.

G. Separation Distance

Mobile food units must have a clear space distance of 3 feet (not including awnings) from other mobile food units.

H. Generators

Generators that service a mobile food unit cannot be fueled while the mobile food unit is in operation.

Generators cannot be fueled while the generator is in use.

Generators cannot be fueled until the generator has been turned off and the surface temperature of both the engine and the fuel tank are below the autoignition temperature of the fuel.

Generators cannot be operated, used or fueled within the occupant space of the mobile unit.

I. Electrical

All electrical equipment in a mobile food unit must be installed in accordance with NFPA 70 (2017).

All electrical wiring in a mobile food unit that is built, manufactured or altered on or after December 15, 2017, must be contained in exposed conduit.

All occupancies and tents shall have a breaker box that meets or exceeds NFPA 70. All occupancies shall have a driven ground rod, clamp and at least #12 solid wire for a mechanical ground from electrical service or mobile unit. All electrical equipment and appliances located outside of occupancy shall be grounded in the same manner

III. LP-Gas storage, use and handling

A. Containers

All propane tanks must be kept in a secure manner at all times.

The maximum aggregate capacity of LP-Gas containers in a mobile food unit cannot exceed **200** gallons aggregate water capacity.

B. Location and Installation

LP-Gas supply systems that are used for a mobile food unit can be installed in one of two locations: 1) outside of the vehicle, or 2) in a recess or cabinet that is vapor tight to the inside of the vehicle but accessible from and vented to the outside with vents located near the top and bottom of the enclosure and 3 feet horizontally away from any opening into the vehicle.

LP-Gas containers must be securely mounted on the vehicle or within an enclosing recess or cabinet. They must also be secured with non-combustible material or devices.

They must be kept in a secure manner at all times. Additionally, LP-Gas containers must comply with all of the following:

Cylinders must be located in such a manner that minimizes exposure to excessive temperature rises, physical damage, and/or tampering.

Vehicle mounted propane tanks must be mounted with a minimum 36-inch clearance from the bottom of the tank to the ground.

LP-Gas containers cannot be installed on the roof of a mobile food unit.

All LP-Gas container valves, appurtenances, and connections must be protected to prevent damage from accidental contact with stationary objects, loose objects, stones, mud, and/or ice. They must also be protected from damage due to overturn or similar vehicular accident.

LP-Gas cylinders must have permanent protection for cylinder valves and connections.

Any device or material used to secure an LP-Gas container must be made of non-combustible material.

C. Piping and Connectors

In addition to the above, specific language was added to the new OFC regarding piping and connectors used in a mobile food unit. However, unlike other provisions that would (absent a distinct hazard) apply prospectively only, provisions added regarding piping and connectors will apply to all mobile food units in Ohio. For existing units, mobile food unit owners or operators will have until December 31, 2018, to bring their units into compliance with these provisions. Specifically, all piping in any mobile food unit operated in Ohio (regardless of when the unit was built, manufactured, altered, or brought into service) will have to comply with the following on or before **December 31, 2018**:

All piping must be installed per NFPA 58 (2014)

All steel tubing must have a minimum wall thickness of 1.2 mm.

To protect against expansion, contraction, jarring, and vibration strains, a flexible connector must be installed between any regulator outlet and the fixed piping system.

Flexibility must be provided between a cylinder and the gas piping system or regulator.

Flexible connectors must be installed in accordance with NFPA 58 (2014), section 6.9.6. If they are installed between apparatus and the piping system, they must be installed in accordance with ANSI Z21-69-2015/CSA 6.6 2015.

Flexible connectors that are longer than the length allowed in the OFC cannot be used unless they are approved.

Fuel lines that incorporate hose cannot be used unless they are approved.

Fixed piping systems used in a mobile food unit must be designed, installed, supported and secured in such a manner as to minimize the possibility of damage due to vibration, strains, or wear, and in such a manner as to preclude loosening while in transit.

Piping must be installed in a secure location.

If piping is installed outside the vehicle, it must be under the vehicle and below any insulation or false bottom.

Piping must be fastened or have other protection to prevent damage due to vibration or abrasion.

A rubber grommet or equivalent protection must be installed to prevent chafing at each point where piping passes through sheet metal or a structural member.

Gas piping must be installed so that it enters the mobile food unit through the floor directly beneath or adjacent to the appliance served.

If a branch line is installed, a tee connection must be located in the main gas line under the floor and outside the vehicle.

Any exposed part of a fixed piping system must either be of corrosion-resistant material or be coated or protected in such a manner as to minimize exterior corrosion.

Isolated sections of liquid piping must have hydrostatic relief valves; they must be installed in accordance with NPFA 58 (2014), section 6.13.

All piping systems (including hose) must be pressure-tested and must be proven free of leaks in accordance with NPFA 58 (2014), section 6.14.

D. Emergency Shut-off Controls

All mobile food units that use LP-Gas must have marked exterior emergency shut-off controls. The controls must be readily distinguishable and accessible and must have a quarter-turn manual gas ball valve.

Emergency shut-off controls must be signed. Signage must be permanently mounted at the location of the controls and must state: "EMERGENCY GAS SHUT-OFF VALVE." Signage must be clearly visible and must remain unobscured at all times. Signs must be weather-resistant and of contrasting colors and must be readable from a distance of 25 feet.

IV. Inspection Fee

A \$5.00 inspection fee will be charged for each mobile food truck inspection.