EL PASO COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES DIST. No. 1

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Resolution #: 2021-001

MOBILE FOOD UNITS (MFU) VENDING REQUIREMENTS

***Effective June 1, 2021, a fee of $71.00 shall be assessed for the annual fire safety inspection process for the operation of any Mobile Food Unit (MFU's) vending within the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1's jurisdiction.**

MFU's can consist of and include, but not limited to: food truck, food cart, food trailer, etc.

INSPECTION

- A "Fire Safety Inspection" is required for any MFU vending within the jurisdiction of the El Paso County Emergency Services District #1. Inspections are required on an annual basis.
- It shall be unlawful to operate MFU's without a fire safety inspection; unless, approved by the Fire Marshal and/or designee.
- Annual MFU operational inspection reports must be displayed in a binder with all other AHJ credentials and essential documentation located within the mobile food unit.
- MFU's left on site for than 24 hours at carnivals, fairs, festivals, or other public events will be subject to Food Booth permit requirements, inspections, and fees in addition to any fees associated with the annual MFU permits.

APPLIANCES

- All appliances shall be **UL or FM** listed specifically for gas-fuel service.
- An approved inspection sticker or receipt valid for 12 months must be displayed or kept on hand for all gas-fueled appliances (Stoves, Fryers, etc.) indicating that a licensed gas-fueled company has inspected the equipment, excluding gas-fueled cylinders. A valid receipt for gas inspection is acceptable.
- If present, the ventilation system shall be maintained over cooking equipment and appliances. Hoods shall be operated at the required rate of air movement. Classified grease filters shall be in place and cleaned as needed. A residential hood is required, at minimum.
- The operator of an MFU that uses any amount of gas-fueled to prepare food shall not operate such unit within 20 feet of another MFU, during festivals or events approved by the AHJ.
- The exhaust system on a MFU (if applicable) shall be inspected and maintained based on 2015 International Fire Code (Table 609.3.3.1) and NFPA 96.

BAFFLES AND CLOSURES

- All deep-fat fryers shall have a steel baffle between the fryer and surface flames of an adjacent appliance. The baffle shall be 8 inches in height.
- A positive closing lid shall be required on the fryer with latching mechanisms that secure it in the open and closed positions. (***Exception:*** *fryers installed under a fixed pipe extinguishing system*).

ELECTRICAL

- All electrical wiring shall comply with the Electrical Codes: NEC (NFPA 70) and the International Fire Code 2015.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- A 2A10BC fire extinguisher is required for all MFU's.
- MFU's with portable fuel-driven generators shall have a **2A10BC** portable fire extinguisher mounted in a conspicuous place within the kitchen area and/or within the vicinity of the generator, in addition to the other fire extinguishers.
- All portable fire extinguishers shall be mounted, serviced, inspected, and tagged annually.
- In addition to any other required fire extinguisher, all MFU's who **deep fry** shall have a **class K** portable fire extinguisher for up to four fryers having a maximum cooking medium capacity of 80 pounds each. For every additional group of four fryers having a maximum cooking capacity of 80 pounds each, an additional class K extinguisher will be required. For individual fryers exceeding 6 square feet in surface area, class K extinguishers will be installed in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS – When dealing with a Gas-Fuel Service

- Gas-Fuel Service usage shall comply with the following:
- All Gas-Fuel Service containers shall be limited to 60 pounds gas capacity. Two 30-lb containers may be manifold when equipment is approved in advance.
- Gas-Fuel Service containers shall be located and secured on the exterior of the mobile food unit, open to atmosphere or if containers are kept in compartment, said compartment must be separate from the interior food preparation area. Access must be from the exterior of the unit and compartment floor and exterior door must be vented to the atmosphere.
- All Gas-Fuel Service containers (empty or full) shall be stored and secured in an upright position in such a manner as not to fall over. All MFUs shall be positioned in a manner that will reduce the exposure of the Gas-Fuel Service cylinder to vehicle impact. Do not park MFUs with Gas-Fuel Service cylinders facing oncoming traffic. Always utilize available protection for Gas-Fuel Service cylinders such as fences or barricades.
- All MFU's with Gas-Fuel Service shall post a visible **"NO SMOKING"** sign next to or directly above the Gas-Fuel Service bottle and visible to the public. Such sign shall be posted with a minimum of **4 inch lettering** on contrasting background.
- An NFPA 704 hazard placard shall be posted near the Gas-Fuel Service tank.
- Any hose used to pipe Gas-Fuel Service to a device shall be **UL or FM** listed specifically for Gas-Fuel Service. All couplings, fittings, and any other devices shall meet the requirements for Gas-Fuel Service as outlined in the International Fuel Gas Code, NFPA 58 and 54 or be deemed unapproved and removed from service. (***marked 350 PSI working pressure***)
- Cylinders shall not be located near exit access doors, exits, stairways, or in areas normally used, or intended to be used, as a means of egress.
- Gas-Fuel Service tanks shall be located outside the mobile food unit a minimum of **5-feet** from the primary means of egress.
- Cylinders shall not be placed where they can be exposed to vehicular damage.
- All Gas-Fuel Service cylinders shall be located outside of the unit, with the safety release valves pointed away from the unit.
- Gas-Fuel Service **shall not** be located: on the roof of vehicle; inside the unit; nor can it extend further than the rear bumper; and is to be protected from vehicle collision.
- An annual Gas-Fuel Service inspection from a company certified by the Texas Railroad Commission to perform Gas-Fuel Service inspections is required.

GENERATOR REFUELING

- Refueling of generators shall be performed in an approved location not less than 20 feet from the MFU. Fuel shall be stored in a **UL or FM** approved flammable liquid safety container in an approved location. Generators shall be grounded in an approved method. Generators shall not be refueled in areas occupied by the public.

EMERGENCY EGRESS WITHIN MFU

- Emergency egress shall comply.
- MFU's shall have a clear, unobstructed height over the aisle-way portion of the unit of at least 74 inches from floor to ceiling, and a minimum of 30 inches of unobstructed horizontal aisle space.
- Should travel distance from any portion of the interior exceed 15 feet, the mobile food units shall have a minimum of two exits located remote from each other and so arranged as to provide a means of unobstructed travel to the outside of the vehicle.
  - ❖ A secondary means of egress shall be located remote of the main exit door, with an unobstructed minimum passage of 24" X 24 " to the outside. The bottom of this secondary means of egress shall not be more than four (4) feet above the vehicle floor or a readily accessible horizontal surface capable of supporting a weight of 300 pounds minimum opening to the outside.
  - ❖ The latch mechanism of any exit facility shall be operable by hand, and shall not require the use of a key or special knowledge for operation from the inside. The secondary exit shall be labeled with the word **"EXIT"** with 2 inch minimum letters on contrasting background.

ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

- Annual fire safety inspections are required for vending within EPC ESD #1's jurisdiction.
- MFU's shall contact E.P.C. E.S.D. #1 – Fire Marshal's Office to schedule an appointment to bring their units to our location for an initial inspection or re-inspection, if required.
- All decorative material, including umbrellas or small canopies over the equipment, shall be nonflammable or be treated flame-retardant.
- If the MFU has an approved Type I hood and fire extinguishing system installed, it shall be maintained, as required by fire code and NFPA 96.
- Portable open flame devices fueled by flammable or combustible gases or liquids shall be enclosed or installed in such a manner as to prevent the flame from contacting combustible material.

ACCESSORIES (Tents; Tables; Chairs; etc…) (*if applicable*)

- Tents, canopies, membrane structures shall be anchored, braced, and secured.
- If providing tables and chairs, the MFU shall provide the required documentation for use and shall also meet the requirements set forth by the City/County Health Department.
  - o A copy of the agreement between the property owner & the MFU shall be within documentation records binder

SEPERATION

- Where (2) MFU's are posted within the same address or location, the separation between both MFU's shall be at a minimum of 10-feet separation between each unit.
- Any variance shall be pre-approved by the Fire Marshal. (Special Events).

COMPLIANCE WITH ORDINANCE # 0092 (*Within the Town of Horizon City*)

- Mobile Food Units (MFU's) shall comply with the Town of Horizon City's Ordinance # 0092 when vending within the Town of Horizon City.

If you have any questions, please contact our office @ 915-852-3204. Thank you for your cooperation and compliance.