

**Hidalgo County Rules for Regulation of Food Establishments in the Unincorporated
Areas of Hidalgo
Public Comment Regarding Revised Policy
February 25, 2014**

Current Policy	Proposed Policy
1. Fee Schedule	
Establishments with 1-10 employees \$50.00	Mobile Food Vendor Permit \$100.00
11 or more employees \$100.00	Establishments with 1-10 employees \$100.00
	11 or more employees \$125.00
	21 or more employees \$150.00
2. Permit Application Process	
Obtain approval from Planning, Fire Marshal, and Environmental Health OSSF Division	Adds: Approval from Environmental Compliance Division
3. Inspection Schedule	
Before issuance of a permit	Adds: Inspection every 120 days at Hidalgo County Health & Human Services- Environmental Health Division
On-site inspection(s)	Adds: Permit holder shall maintain a log of all daily operational periods
	Adds: Permit holder shall maintain a log of all waste disposal and maintenance to vehicle
4. Required Agreements	
Restroom agreement (if applicable)	Adds: Parking agreement (if applicable)
	Adds: Electricity agreement (if applicable)
5. Push Cart Regulations	
Unit shall not exceed four (4) feet in width, eight (8) feet in length, and eight (8) feet in height including a unit's shade umbrella.	Adds: The unit must have at least 2 (two) reflective devices on each side to be seen in low-light conditions.
Unit shall be easily movable, controllable, and maneuverable by one (1) person when the unit is fully loaded	Adds: The unit must be affiliated with a certified commercial vendor
The bottom of the unit shall be at least one (1) foot from the ground	Adds: The operator of the unit must wear a reflective safety vest at all times while the unit is in operation
Unit shall not be self-propelled	Adds: Shall only sell pre-packaged, sealed foods and/or beverages
	Adds: Shall not sell or prepare fresh food and/or beverages, hot or cold, on the unit
6. Flea Market (allowing the sale of food) Requirements	
Not Applicable	Adds: Permanent structure food court must have: a. Restroom facilities within 300 feet b. Plumbing with hot and cold water c. Proper waste disposal and d. A permanent structure food court shall consist of at least two (2) or more food vendors operating from a permanent or semi-permanent structure (i.e., not readily moveable)
	Adds: Mobile vendor food courts must have: a. Restroom facilities within 300 feet b. Paved parking space c. Electrical outlet and

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	d. Waste disposal connection
	Adds: All flea market food vendors regardless of type must be in compliance with Hidalgo County Planning Department, Right of Way Department, the Office of Environmental Compliance, and the Office of the Fire Marshal including but not limited to the On-Site sewage Facility (OSSF) policies and procedures
	Adds: Flea market owners with a permanent or mobile food court must maintain a current Food Manager's Certification at all times
	Adds: All persons engaged in the sale and/or preparation of food must maintain a current Food Handler's Certification at all times of operation.
7. Mobile Food Vendor Requirements	
Shall be readily identifiable by business name, printed in bold black letters not less than three (3) inches in height, no less than one and one-half (1.5) inches in width, permanently affixed, and prominently displayed upon at least two (2) sides of the units.	Adds: A person must comply with policies and procedures of the Hidalgo County Planning Department, Right of Way Department, the Office of Environmental Compliance, and the Office of the Fire Marshal including but not limited to the On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) policies and procedures
Shall provide written details or plans regarding the systems installed for approved water source, distribution, delivery, and retention and for waste, sewage, and wastewater retention, drainage, and disposal or removal	Adds: Mobile vendor food courts must have: a. Paved parking space b. Electrical outlet c. Waste disposal connection and d. Appropriate restroom facilities within 300 feet of mobile food vendor vehicles
Live animals shall be excluded from the immediate adjacent surrounding areas of all mobile food establishments	Adds: Must be commercial grade, generator-powered, and certified to meet all State health standards and Texas department of Transportation standards
All motor vehicles operating as mobile food establishments upon open roads, streets, and highways shall maintain a current Texas motor vehicle inspection sticker and a current Texas motor-vehicle license-plate registration sticker	Adds: Must comply with all Texas Traffic and Safety Laws while the unit is in operation; including Section 285.001 of the Texas Transportation Code, as amended
	Adds: Approval from Planning Department, Environmental Health (OSSF Division), Environmental Compliance, and an approved inspection from Fire Marshal
	Adds: Vendors serving fresh food must do so in single-serve, single-use containers designed for transport

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