

Mobile Food Unit License Reciprocity

Schertz City Council June 23, 2020

Mobile Food Unit (MFU) License Reciprocity

This is an agreement between local / regional government entities that allows MFU health and fire inspections performed by one local government to be accepted by others through a written agreement.

Applicable Codes

Texas Administrative Code

§228.247. Permit Requirement, Prerequisite for Operation:

A person may not operate a food establishment without a valid permit or license to operate issued by the regulatory authority.

§116. Regulatory Authority:

The local, state, or federal enforcement body or authorized representative having jurisdiction over the food establishment.

Why Reciprocity

- Regulations for MFU operations could be uniform throughout the area or region.
- A MFU operator would be able to streamline the licensing process by setting one appointment and paying one fee.
- A MFU operator could increase the size of their customer base utilizing one permit and servicing various communities.

MFU Health Inspections

- Each regulatory authority is required to perform a health inspection on a MFU.
- Each regulatory authority involved in an agreement would have to adopt uniform health codes applicable to MFU's.
- There would need to be a means in place to track or regulate inspections across city and county lines.
- Inconsistencies in conducting health inspections across multiple municipalities.

MFU Inspections & Revenue per year

2017-2018	14 units	\$1750
2018-2019	25 units	\$3125
2019-2020	27 units	\$3375

Cost Comparison

Regulatory Authority	Food permit	Fire permit
Schertz	\$125	\$25
San Antonio	\$103-\$309	\$309
Cibolo	\$95	\$0
Universal City	\$120	\$0
Selma	\$100	\$0
New Braunfels	\$50- \$156	\$0
Seguin	\$200	\$0

Fire Department

MFU Inspection

Why are inspection necessary?

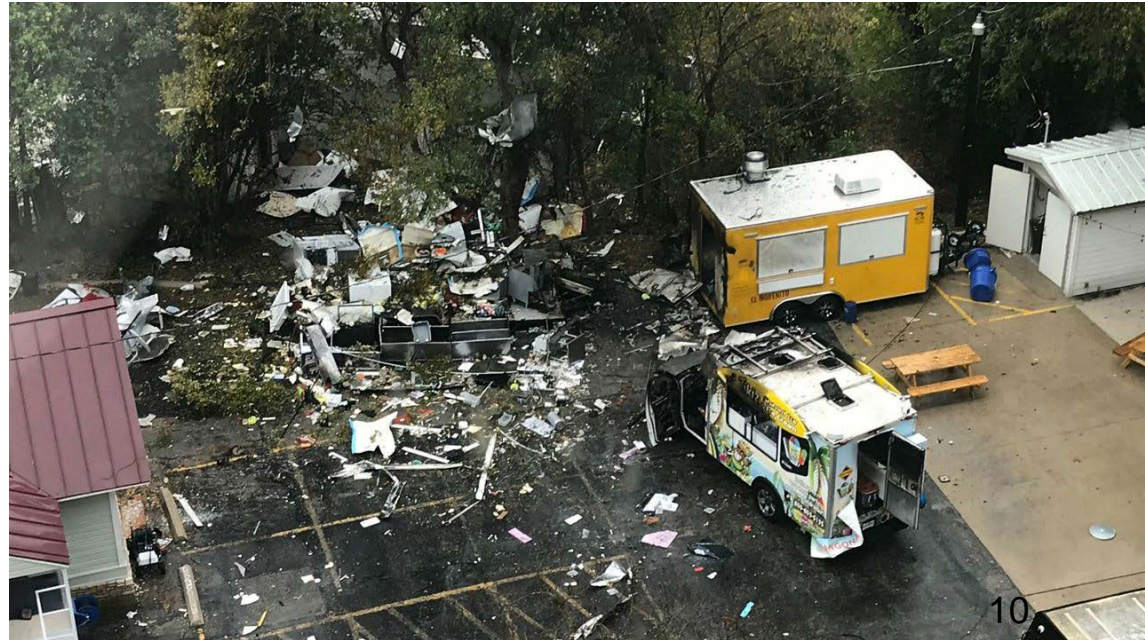
- Verify that the vehicle complies with fire code.
- Verifying that fire safety devices such as “fire extinguishers and hood suppression systems have been installed, inspected and are in good working order.



Food Truck explosion in San Marcos, Texas
Nov. 14, 2019

Fire Inspections

Vibrations and impacts of a MFU driving down the road can cause deterioration of electrical connections, wiring, gas connections and hoses. This can become dangerous, causing electrical arcing or gas leaks.



Fire Code

Not all agencies perform fire inspections on MFUs.

Performs fire inspections:

Schertz San Antonio

Bexar County

Does not perform fire inspections:

Selma Cibolo

Live Oak Universal City

Garden Ridge

Additional Information

The City of Austin has entered into agreements for health inspections of MFUs with Unincorporated Travis County, Sunset Valley, Manor, Bee Cave, Lakeway, Rollingwood, Volente, and Westlake Hills.

Additional Information

Bexar County has been accepting health certificates for MFUs from outside agencies.

Due to issues with permits and vendors operating outside the scope of their permits, Bexar County will stop this practice July 10th, 2020.

Pro's

- Regulations for MFU operations could be uniform throughout the region.
- A MFU operator would be able to streamline the licensing process by setting one appointment and paying one fee.
- A MFU operator could increase the size of their customer base utilizing one permit and servicing various communities.

Con's

- Each regulatory authority would have to adopt uniform health codes applicable to MFU's.
- We do not have the shared technology in place to track or regulate inspections across city and county lines.
- Inconsistencies in conducting health inspections across multiple municipalities.
- Not all government agencies perform fire inspections on MFUs.
- Loss of revenue and oversight of MFUs that would operate in the city.

Recommendation

To work with the City of San Antonio on a reciprocity agreement for MFUs. The City of San Antonio's standards mirror our current health and fire safety standards, making it a logical start to the proposed program.

Questions?