



# Austin Fire Department

Fire Marshal's Office

6310 Wilhelmina Delco Dr., Austin, TX 78752

(512) 974-0160

[AFDMobileVending@austintexas.gov](mailto:AFDMobileVending@austintexas.gov)

**Read this entire document carefully. The Mobile Vending Unit owner or representative will be responsible for ensuring all applicable requirements are met during the Fire inspection. Any Fire inspection related questions should be directed to the Austin Fire Department at [AFDMobileVending@austintexas.gov](mailto:AFDMobileVending@austintexas.gov)**

Effective May 1, 2022, the Austin Fire Department began enforcing Section 319, Mobile Food Preparation Vehicles, of the 2021 International Fire Code (IFC). The following quick reference table as be used as a guide to ensure all Mobile Vending Units (MVU) meet the minimum requirements. The fire code applies to all MVUs equipped with propane, as well as MVUs using electric appliances that produce smoke or grease laden vapors.

## **Fire Inspection Permit**

Effective October 1, 2023, ***all*** MVUs equipped with propane, as well as MVUs using electric appliances that produce smoke or grease laden vapors, will require an inspection from the Austin Fire Department before being allowed to work within Austin city limits. This includes local MVUs as well as MVUs visiting from outside of Austin that are applying for either temporary or annual Mobile Food Vending permits issued by Austin Public Health. MVUs operating without an inspection from the Austin Fire Department will be shut down and a citation will be issued.

## **Fire Inspection Fee Assessment**

Effective October 1, 2023, an additional inspection fee will be assessed by Austin Fire Department before rescheduling any failed, late, missed, or no-show for re-inspection. A "failure" is defined as not meeting all the applicable fire codes at the time of inspection. "Late" is defined as not being prepared for inspection 15 minutes after your scheduled appointment. A "no-show" or "missed inspection" is defined as the MVU not being present at the scheduled inspection day and time. It is highly encouraged that MVUs arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled appointment.



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Operators of MVUs are responsible for the following:

<p>The 2015 International Fire Code continues to be in effect for MVUs getting a fire inspection to <b>renew</b> an existing permit that was issued prior to May 1, 2022.          The 2021 International Fire Code is in effect for MVUs getting a <b>new</b> permit after May 1, 2022.</p> <p><b>“New” means new construction, change of ownership or lapse of permit greater than 6 months</b></p>	
<p>Mobile Vending Units          Renewing a permit issued  <i><b>before</b></i> May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022</p>	<p>Mobile Vending Units          Getting a <b>*NEW*</b> permit  <i><b>after</b></i> May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2A10BC fire extinguisher with current annual inspection tag</li> <li>• Propane System Inspection Report form filled out by a licensed LPG plumber</li> <li>• A Class K fire extinguisher with current annual inspection tag when using fryers or solid fuel (ex. wood, charcoal)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2A10BC fire extinguisher with current annual inspection tag</li> <li>• Propane System Inspection Report form filled out by a licensed LPG plumber</li> <li>• A Class 1 hood automatic fire suppression system (commonly called Ansul) with a current semi-annual inspection tag</li> <li>• A Class K fire extinguisher with current annual inspection tag</li> <li>• An explosive-gas detector</li> <li>• An electrical inspection report on the AFD form filled out by a master electrician.</li> </ul>



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## Mobile Vending Unit (MVU) Checklist

### Automatic Fire Suppression Systems:

- Class 1 Hood Automatic Fire Suppression Systems are now mandatory for new MVUs after May 1, 2022.
- These systems are required to have a current semi-annual inspection tag.
- A Class K fire extinguisher is also required with a current annual inspection tag.

### Electrical:

- No use of extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Breaker boxes and junction boxes shall have proper covers.
- All wiring must be in conduit.
- Improper use of electrical accessories and overloading of circuits is prohibited.
- For all MVUs obtaining a *new* permit, an inspection of the electrical system will be required by a master electrician. This is a one-time inspection to ensure compliance with NFPA 70, National Electrical Code. See the link to the AFD Electrical Inspection Form.

### Location of Mobile Units:

- MVUs shall not be closer than 15 feet to any fire hydrant.
- MVUs shall not block access to a Fire Department Connection (FDC).
- MVUs shall not obstruct any entrances or exits from a structure.
- Exits of MVUs shall not be obstructed.
- MVUs shall not be located under any building overhang or in a parking garage.



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## **Propane Cylinders:**

- A maximum capacity of propane containers transported on the vehicle and used to fuel cooking appliances shall not exceed 200 pounds.
- Propane containers are required to have a current hydrostatic date stamp.
- With the installation of a Class 1 Hood Automatic Fire Suppression System and compliance with IFC 2021 Section 319, propane cylinders now may be connected with a manifold system.

## **Propane Cylinder Location:**

- Propane cylinders (including spares) are required to be protected from damage. Propane cylinders and piping are prohibited in the following locations:
  - On rear bumpers, on exterior sides of vehicle, or below the lowest part of the vehicle frame
  - Inside improperly vented or unvented trunks or beds of vehicles
  - Inside passenger compartments of vehicles
- The propane storage compartment shall be properly ventilated with at least two vents (one top of compartment and one bottom of compartment). Each vent shall have a total area equal to at least .5 square inches for each 7 lbs. of the total propane fuel capacity of the maximum number of the largest cylinders the compartment can hold.
- The propane storage compartment shall be sealed off to the interior of the MVU.
- Propane cylinders must be secured as to prevent propane cylinders from leaving mount or cage in the event of vehicle crash or rollover.
- The relief valve discharge from the propane cylinder shall not be less than 3 ft measured horizontally along the surface of the vehicle to:
  - Openings in the vehicle
  - Propane burning appliance intake or exhaust vents
  - All internal combustion engine exhaust terminations



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## **Appliances and Equipment:**

- All cooking appliances shall be listed for use with propane or electricity as applicable.
- Propane piping prohibited from being located on sides, rear or roof of unit.
- All appliances must be properly modified for use with propane.
- Piping systems, including fittings and valves shall comply with NFPA 58.
- Maximum of 60 inches of metal flex hose allowed for each appliance to connect to the propane hard pipe.
- Metal flex hose must not penetrate through walls, floor or ceiling to the interior of the vehicle. Rigid pipe must be used to penetrate solid assemblies.
- Manual shutoff valves on gas lines are required at the point of use (the appliance) and at the supply.
- For all new MVUs inspected after May 1, 2022, a listed propane alarm shall be installed within the vehicle in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

## **Fire Extinguishers:**

- All MVUs are required to have a 2A10BC fire extinguisher.
- All MVUs with a fryer or using solid fuel (wood/charcoal) also require a Class K fire extinguisher.
- All new MVUs inspected after May 1, 2022, are required to have a Class K fire extinguisher.
- Each fire extinguisher is required to be mounted in a conspicuous location where it can be located quickly. All employees are required to have knowledge of the location and operation of all fire extinguishers.

**Mobile Vending Units must maintain compliance with fire codes and local ordinances at all times, and are subject to random field inspections by the Austin Fire Department Fire Marshal's Office.**