



**Conditions for Mobile Food Vendors according to Section 1-2.8.4 of the Unified Development Ordinance of the City of Florence**

**What do I do first?**

1. Obtain a Zoning Compliance Permit from the Planning Department.
2. Obtain a Peddler’s License from the Business License office.

**Where can I operate?**

Mobile food vendors are permitted to operate within the CG, CBD, AC, CA, DS, OSR, IL, and IH zoning districts if it is demonstrated that:

1. The mobile food vendor shall have the written approval of the property owner or authorized lease holder of the property upon which the food truck/cart is located. The vendor must maintain within the food truck/cart proof of written permission to occupy each vending location.
2. The mobile food vendor shall not locate on a property with a residential use.

**What about the Historic Downtown Overlay District?**

A mobile food vendor shall not operate within a 500 foot distance of the H-1, Historic Overlay District (measured from the perimeter of the district). Exceptions to this include:

1. Food carts as defined by this ordinance
2. Operating within the W-1, Food, Artisan, and Warehouse District if the vendor maintains a permanent eating establishment, commissary, certified kitchen, or other physical location or base of operation within the W-1 District. This

exception does not apply to a lease agreement solely for the purpose of parking and/or vending from a mobile food truck, cart, etc.

### **What about existing restaurants?**

1. The food truck/cart shall be positioned at least 500 feet from the primary customer entrance of an eating establishment during its hours of operation measured by pedestrian travel path, unless the mobile food vendor provides documentation that the restaurant owner supports a closer proximity.
2. Exceptions to this include: Operating within the W-1, Food, Artisan, and Warehouse District if the vendor maintains a permanent eating establishment, commissary, certified kitchen, or other physical location or base of operation within the W-1 District. This exception does not apply to a lease agreement solely for the purpose of parking and/or vending from a mobile food truck, cart, etc.

### **What time can I operate?**

No mobile food vendor shall operate between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. if the parcel upon which the vendor is located is within 400 feet of any residential district or use (measured from the shortest distance between parcel lines).

### **What about schools?**

No mobile food vendor shall operate within 200 feet of a private or public school during school hours (measured from the shortest distance between parcel lines) with the exception of a recognized special event with written permission from the school district. A mobile food vendor may operate on school grounds during non-instructional hours with the written permission of the school district.

### **I'm on a permitted site. Where do I park?**

1. The mobile food vendor shall be positioned within developed and designated parking spaces or driveways only and shall accommodate necessary customer parking per Article 9 of this ordinance. The vending location shall not interfere

with the movement of motor vehicles. Alternative parking may be approved by the Planning Director for special events or a non-reoccurring vending location.

2. Mobile food vendors are prohibited from operating on any public right-of-way to include but not limited to streets, sidewalks, alleys, or trails.
3. In certain cases to include but not limited to publicly sanctioned events and festivals, mobile food vendors may be allowed, with written permission, to operate within the prohibited areas.

### **Anything else I should know?**

1. A mobile food vendor shall only operate as a walk-up vendor. It is expressly prohibited to operate as a drive-in window. The vendor is not required to provide tables and/or seating for customers.
2. If the mobile food vendor operates after dark, the vendor shall provide appropriate lighting limited to the parcel on which the vendor is located.
3. No signage shall be allowed other than signs permanently attached to the motor vehicle or cart and a portable menu sign no more than six (6) square feet in a display area on the ground in the customer waiting area. Animated or scrolling signs shall not be allowed. Illuminated signs shall be subject to the following provisions:
  - a. Illuminated signs shall not directly shine on abutting properties.
  - b. No illumination simulating traffic control devices or emergency vehicles shall be used, nor shall lights which are intermittently switched on and off, changed in intensity or color, or otherwise displayed to create the illusion of flashing or movement be permitted.
  - c. No flood lights shall be utilized nor shall any sign otherwise reflect or emit a glaring light so as to impair driver vision.
  - d. In no case shall an illuminated sign be located closer than 60 feet from the property line of an adjacent residential property.
4. The vendor may operate in any zoning district or land use when operating in a catering capacity for the property owner and not selling to the general public.

5. Upon leaving the site, all materials associated with the business must be removed from the parcel to include but not limited to signage, trash, trash receptacles, equipment, etc.
6. The vendor must comply with all applicable municipal utility requirements per Chapter 12 of the City of Florence Code of Ordinances
7. The Noise and Vibration provisions of this Ordinance, Section 4.11.2.1, as well as the City of Florence Code of Ordinances Sections 10-9, 10-10, and 10-11 shall apply to all permitted mobile food vendors. No mobile food vendor shall sound any device which produces an offensive or loud noise to attract customers, and vendors shall not use any public address system on the vehicle to broadcast or advertise products.
8. The Mobile Food Vendor will be operated in accordance with all other applicable provisions of this Unified Development Ordinance, the City's Code of Ordinances, the City's Fire Code and Policies, as well as applicable Federal and State requirements.

[Please contact the City of Florence Planning, Research, and Development Department at 843-665-2047 with any other questions. Thank you for choosing the City of Florence!](#)