

MOBILE FOOD AND HOT DOG VENDORS

This industry comprises businesses primarily engaged in providing food services from motorized vehicles or nonmotorized carts.

Business types included in this category:

- **Mobile Food Services**

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Before starting a business, you probably will need to register with the **Florida Department of State**, the **Internal Revenue Service** and the **Florida Department of Revenue** when you are ready to move forward. After completing these steps, you **will** need to get a license from one of these Florida agencies:

- **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services** – Mobile food vendors and food establishments that sell prepackaged food such as cookies, potato chips, sandwiches, hot dogs; prepackaged and portioned novelties such as ice cream sandwiches and frozen yogurt bars; fresh squeezed juices; bulk dispensing of non-potentially hazardous food such as popcorn, shaved ice, cotton candy, churros, pretzel and candy apples; and fish products without processing such as head or off shrimp.
- **Department of Business and Professional Regulation** – Most hot dog carts and mobile food dispensing vehicles that prepare food.
- **Department of Health** – Mobile food units that operate on institutional property or use a commissary that is licensed by the Department of Health.

All mobile food vendors **require** the use of a commissary. A **commissary** is an approved facility that provides the necessary support services for the mobile food operation. Support services include: obtaining potable water from an approved source, disposing of waste water and solid waste, cleaning and sanitizing utensils and equipment, storing food, storing single service items and other supplies and preparing food.

Business owners in this category may also wish to explore assistance offered by the **Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**.

Register your business with the Department of State

Department of State-

The Florida Department of State's Division of Corporations serves as the state's central depository for a number of commercial activities. These activities include a variety of business entity filings, trade and service mark registrations, federal lien recordings, judgment lien filings, uniform commercial code financing statements, fictitious name registrations, notary commissions, and cable and video service franchises.

Business Registration

Visit: <http://dos.myflorida.com/sunbiz/forms/>

Apply for your Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Internal Revenue Service-

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is the nation's tax collection agency and administers the Internal Revenue Code enacted by Congress.

EIN Online Registration

Visit: <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online>

Register your business with the Department of Revenue

Department of Revenue-

The Florida Department of Revenue administers three programs: general tax administration, property tax oversight and child support. The general tax administration program works with Florida businesses that are required to register for, collect, report and remit the taxes and fees administered by the Department.

The Department also manages the State of Florida's New Hire Reporting Center. Federal and state laws require employers to report newly hired, re-hired and temporary employees within 20 days of an employee's start date. This information is used to assist the Department's child support program with child support orders. The employment information reported through the state's New Hire Reporting Center is also used to detect and prevent public assistance and reemployment assistance fraud.

For additional information, please visit www.floridarevenue.com.

REPORTING EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

The Department manages the State of Florida's New Hire Reporting Center. Federal and state laws require employers to report newly hired, re-hired and temporary employees within 20 days of an employee's start date. The Department's Child Support program utilizes employment information and employer cooperation to assist with child support order compliance. The reported employment information through the state's New Hire Reporting Center is also used to detect and prevent public assistance and reemployment fraud.

New Hire Reporting Registration Working with the Child Support Program

Visit: <https://newhire.floridarevenue.com/SitePages/home.aspx>

BUSINESS TAXES, FEES AND SURCHARGE

Businesses in this category may be required to register for, collect, report and/or remit one or more of the following taxes and fees.

Corporate Income Tax Liability Reemployment Tax Registration Sales and Use Tax Registration Discretionary Sales Surtax (local option county taxes)

Visit: <http://floridarevenue.com/dor/taxes/registration.html>

Apply for a food establishment permit from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services-

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) supports and promotes Florida agriculture, protects the environment, safeguards consumers, and ensures the safety and wholesomeness of food. FDACS licenses and inspects various businesses and professions in Florida, such as bakeries, milk producers, weights and measurements, pesticide dealers, oyster harvesting, pre-packaged food sales, beekeepers and travel agents, among others. A variety of different businesses may need to coordinate with FDACS to obtain applicable licenses, registrations and/or permits.

Food Establishment Permit

Visit: <http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Food-Safety>

Apply for a license from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Department of Business and Professional Regulation-

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is the agency charged with licensing and regulating businesses and professionals in Florida. A variety of businesses will need to coordinate with DBPR to obtain applicable licenses, registrations and/or permits.

DIVISION OF HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

This division licenses, inspects and regulates public food service establishments in Florida. These include mobile food dispensing vehicles (food trucks), hot dog carts, theme park carts and temporary food service events. Basically, mobile food trucks can be considered full restaurants on wheels, and hot dog carts are more limited.

Mobile food dispensing vehicles and hot dog carts usually require a plan review and inspection before a license is approved, so be sure to leave time for these processes.

Unlike other food service licenses, temporary event licenses are issued on site at the event.

Mobile Food Dispensing Vehicle (Food Truck) License
Hot Dog Cart License
Theme Park Food Cart License
Temporary Food Service Vendor License
Plan Review

Visit: <https://www.myfloridalicense.com/intentions2.asp?chBoard=true&boardid=200&SID=>

Apply for a food sanitation certificate from the Department of Health

Department of Health-

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, & community efforts. The department's goal is to be the healthiest state in the nation through innovation, collaboration, accountability, responsiveness and excellence.

Food Sanitation Certificate

Visit: http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/food-safety-and-sanitation/index.html?utm_source=openmyfloridabusiness&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=2016-10

Explore assistance from the Department of Economic Opportunity (optional)

Department of Economic Opportunity-

In collaboration with our partners, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) assists the Governor in advancing Florida's economy by championing the state's economic development vision and by administering state and federal programs and initiatives to help visitors, citizens, businesses, and communities.

Assistance Programs

Visit: <http://www.floridajobs.org/>

Additional Local Government Information

County Business Requirements-

FEDERAL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS

This checklist provides state and local requirements. Remember to check federal requirements for your business. The following organizations and websites can help:

Florida's Small Business Development Center Network (FLSBDC) <http://floridasbdc.org/> – State designated as Florida's principal provider of small business assistance, the network provides no-cost, professional business consulting, in-person and on-demand training, and access to business research resources to help Florida businesses—no matter their stage of business—grow and succeed.

Florida Chamber of Commerce <http://www.flchamber.com/> – Throughout the Florida Chamber's 100 year history, its number one goal has been to encourage a business friendly climate that allows job creators to do what they do best – create private-sector jobs and contribute to Florida's economy.

County Websites <http://openmyfloridabusiness.gov/county-websites/> – Florida's county governments require various licenses, permits and filings above and beyond state requirements, depending on the type of business you wish to open. Find out about other public services and opportunities related to Florida counties and their governments by visiting the **Florida Association of Counties** <http://www.fl-counties.com> website.

City Websites <http://openmyfloridabusiness.gov/cities/> – Business owners should be aware of local government requirements, especially local business taxes (occupational licenses), building permits and inspections, planning and zoning, and community and economic development opportunities. The **Florida League of Cities** <http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/resources/municipal-directory> offers a comprehensive, alphabetical listing of municipality websites and additional information about local events and government requirements.

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