

Mobile Food Vendors

Food Trucks in Rock Hill City Limits

Commissary, Inspections, and Business Licensing

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) requires that mobile food vendors have a state permit and a commissary for storage, prep, cleaning, etc. Visit agriculture.sc.gov/retail-food-safety for more information.

For commissaries located in Rock Hill city limits, staff needs to review the location to ensure it meets all City standards for the use. You can start this process by applying for your [business license](#).

City Licenses and Permits

All Mobile Food Vendors/Food Trucks are required to:

- Meet required zoning regulations as outlined below.
- Have a City [business license](#); Upload your state permit with this application.
- Have an annual fire inspection.
- Have [Fats, Oil, and Grease \(FOG\)](#) permit when applicable.

Zoning Regulations for Mobile Food Vendors

The City of Rock Hill allows mobile food vendors in a couple of different ways:

- A. If the truck actively moves to multiple sites during one meal time, it is considered a permitted use. The truck needs to have a City business license, but no zoning approval is required.
Examples: Ice cream truck that travels through different neighborhoods; food truck that visits multiple construction sites during a single lunchtime.
- B. All other types of mobile food vendors are allowed only in certain circumstances:
1. As part of an approved special event defined by the City's zoning ordinance, such as City sponsored events like Food Truck Friday, fairs, carnivals, wedding venues, and sporting events.
 2. As an accessory use to a craft brewery.
 3. As an accessory use to a retail store of more than 100,000 square feet.
 4. At a space approved by the Planning Commission in a pedestrian-oriented area such as downtown, urban mixed-use area, major park or venue, or college or employment campus.
NOTE: This option is rare, requires an approval



process, and should have the support of a local association like a downtown business association, chamber of commerce, or similar group.

If one of these situations applies and all of the below conditions are met, the City would approve the temporary use. A business license would still be required.

- **Location on site:** Mobile food vendors must be located to serve major pedestrian flows, event attendees and on-site customers. Vendors cannot be oriented to attract business from nearby roads or other off-site areas.
- **Permission of property owner:** The food vendor must obtain the written permission of the property owner. *Note: If the food vendor is proposing to locate within the right-of-way (such as in a City parking lot or in a parking space along a public street), it must have the written permission of the City.*
- **Safety:** The unit must be parked in a location that does not create traffic or safety problems, and does not impede the activities of other uses at the location.
- **Garbage:** The vendor is responsible for removing all garbage from the site, and for keeping the surroundings free from litter at all times.
- **Attendance:** The vendor must be present at the unit at all times.
- **No overnight stays:** The unit cannot be left on site overnight.
- **Restroom facilities:** The vendor is responsible for securing access to proximately located restrooms for employees.
- **State approvals:** Documentation of approval by a state licensing agency from any state is required to be kept on site and made available upon request.