

## Licensing guidelines for mobile food businesses

This fact sheet provides information about licences for food businesses that operate from a mobile premises.

### What is a mobile food premises?

Mobile premises, for a food business, means-

- a vehicle from which a person sells unpackaged food by retail, or
- a food vending machine.

Mobile premises may include caravans, ships, or food carts.

Mobile premises do not include food transport vehicles used to transport food for off-site catering from a business to a retail premises for sale, or for the home delivery of food by order (e.g. pizza home delivery).

### Do I need to be licensed to operate a food business from a mobile food premises?

All food businesses must be licensed with the local government, except food businesses that sell only one or more of the following:

- unpackaged snack food that is not potentially hazardous (biscuits or cakes, confectionary, corn chips, potato chips, nuts, dried or glazed fruit)
- whole (uncut) fruit or vegetables
- seeds, spices, dried herbs, tea leaves, coffee beans or ground coffee
- the grinding of coffee beans
- the sale of drinks (other than fruit or vegetable juice processed at the place of sale)
- the sale of ice, including flavoured ice
- food from non-profit organisations in certain circumstances (see the Queensland Health document *Food safety for fundraising events*).

There are penalties of up to \$110,000 for food businesses that do not have a licence, if a licence is required.

### Where must I obtain my licence to carry on a food business operating from mobile premises?

All Queensland food businesses required to be licensed must apply to the local government for the area in which the business operates. A food business that operates in more than one local government area only needs to be licensed in one of the local government areas where the food business intends to operate.

When a mobile food premises operates in a second local government area, the food premises must still comply with the obligations of the licence in the second area.

The second local government has the same powers as the first local government to enforce the Act. The second local government may inform the first local government about any contraventions of the licence conditions and the first local government may take appropriate action.

## Do I need to have a food safety supervisor?

All licensable food businesses are required to have a food safety supervisor. There are legislative requirements that must be met to be a food safety supervisor and certain competencies should be attained in order to operate as a food safety supervisor. The licensee must ensure the food safety supervisor is reasonably available to be contacted by food handlers for the food business and by the local government, while the food business is being carried on.

For further information on food safety supervisors, refer to the Queensland Health Food Safety Fact Sheet 18 *Food safety supervisors*.

## Display of mobile food business licence

The licence, or a copy of the licence, must be displayed in a prominent position at the mobile premises so the details are clearly visible.

The licence must include:

- (a) the name and telephone number of the local government which issued the licence;
- (b) the licence number
- (c) the expiry date of the licence;
- (d) the licensee's full name;
- (e) for a vehicle, the registration number of the vehicle (if required);
- (f) for a food vending machine, the serial number or other unique identifying number or mark for the food vending machine.

## Register of mobile food businesses

The Department of Health is required under the Act to keep a register of all licensed food businesses carried on from mobile premises.

The following information is contained in the register for each mobile premises:

- (a) the name of the local government which issued the licence;
- (b) the licensee's name and contact details;
- (c) the licence number;
- (d) the expiry date of the licence;
- (e) a description of the premises that includes-
  - (i) for a vehicle, the registration number of the vehicle (if required);
  - (ii) for a food vending machine, the serial number or other unique identifying number or mark for the food vending machine.
- (f) a description of the food business.

The publicly available register is located at [www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafety/Documents/mobile-food-register.xls](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafety/Documents/mobile-food-register.xls).

## For further information

The Queensland Department of Health has a variety of fact sheets with detailed information on food safety. These can be accessed at [www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafety](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/foodsafety).

If you have any further questions relating to mobile food premises, contact your local government. Contact details can be found in the White Pages or at [www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/local-government-directory](http://www.dlqp.qld.gov.au/local-government-directory).

