

Fire & Life Safety Department

MOBILE FOOD VENDING

Food Trucks & Trailers

These guidelines are to be followed when a food truck or trailer plans to operate within The University of Texas at Dallas campus. These guidelines are not to be interpreted as containing all information required for proper design, approval, inspection and permit.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

All vendors shall meet the operational permit requirements of The University of Texas at Dallas prior to operating on the campus. Yearly operational permits are issued by UT Dallas Auxiliary Services. All vendors must meet their requirements, as well as pass inspection by UT Dallas Fire & Life Safety. Any vendor found in violation of this requirement will be escorted off the property. UT Dallas operational permit shall be displayed at all times while operating on the campus.

Mobile and temporary cooking operations shall comply with the requirements of 2021 NFPA 1 50.8, 2021 NFPA 96, and the applicable section for the type of cooking performed. All cooking equipment that is powered while in transit shall be listed for such usage. Flammable and combustible liquids shall not be stored inside mobile cooking vehicles or in temporary cooking areas unless stored in accordance with NFPA 30.

LOCATION

Mobile or temporary cooking operations shall not block fire apparatus access roads, fire lanes, fire hydrants, or other fire protection devices and equipment. Mobile or temporary cooking operations shall be separated from the entrances and other exits of buildings or structures, combustible materials, vehicles, and other cooking operations by a clear space distance of 10 ft (3 m). Mobile or temporary cooking operations shall be separated from other mobile or temporary cooking operations by a clear distance of 10 ft (3 m). When the mobile unit is parked, the vehicle shall be stabilized so that it will not move, either by jacking the vehicle or placing wheel chocks around the wheels.

COOKING EQUIPMENT

Where the device or appliance, such as a cargo heater or cooler, is designed to be in operation while the vehicle is in transit, means, such as an excess-flow valve, to stop the flow of gas in the event of a line break shall be installed. Gas-fired heating appliances shall be equipped with shutoffs in accordance with 5.23.7(A) of NFPA 58, except for portable heaters used with cylinders having a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb (1.2 kg), portable torches, melting pots, and tar kettles. Gas-fired heating appliances, other than ranges and illuminating appliances installed on vehicles intended for human occupancy, shall be designed, or installed to provide for a complete separation of the combustion system from the atmosphere inside the vehicle. Appliances shall be constructed or otherwise protected to minimize possible damage or impaired operation due to cargo shifting or handling. Appliances shall be located so that a fire at any appliance will not block egress of persons from the vehicle. Gas-fired heating appliances and water heaters shall be equipped with automatic devices designed to shut off the flow of gas to the main burner and the pilot in the event the pilot flame is extinguished.

GENERATOR/POWER SOURCES

Electric generator and internal combustion power sources used for mobile or temporary cooking shall comply with 2021 NFPA 1 50.8.5. Electrical appliances, fixtures, equipment, or wiring other than low-voltage and automotive vehicle circuits or extensions thereof, installed within or on vehicles, shall comply with NFPA 70. An internal combustion engine shall be permitted to be used to operate an electric power generator. Generator units that are not vehicle-mounted while in use shall meet the requirements of 2021 NFPA 1 50.8.5.4.1 through 50.8.5.4.3. Internal combustion engine power sources shall be located at least 12 ft (4 m) from mobile or temporary cooking operations. Internal combustion engine power sources shall be isolated from physical contact by the installation of physical guards, fencing, or an enclosure. Internal combustion engine power sources shall be positioned so that the exhaust complies with the following:

- (1) Located at least 12 ft (4 m) from openings, air intakes, and means of egress
- (2) In a position pointed away from any building
- (3) In a position pointed away from any mobile or temporary cooking operations

VEHICLE MOUNTED GENERATORS

Vehicle-mounted generators shall meet the requirements of 2021 NFPA 1 50.8.6.2 through 50.8.6.5. Internal combustion engine-driven generator units (subject to the provisions of NFPA 1192) shall be listed and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and shall be vapor resistant to the interior of the vehicle. Where a generator compartment is used to isolate the installed generator from the vehicle's interior, or a compartment is provided for the future installation of a generator and is intended to isolate the future generator from the vehicle interior, the generator compartment shall be lined with galvanized steel not less than 26 MSG thick. Seams and joints shall be lapped, mechanically secured, and made vapor resistant to the interior of the vehicle. Liquid fuel lines and exhaust systems shall not penetrate into the area. Holes into the living area shall be sealed.

LP GAS SYSTEMS

LP-Gas systems for mobile cooking operations shall comply with NFPA 58. LP-Gas cylinders shall be secured in an upright position. Where a shutoff valve is provided, it shall be readily accessible and identified with a sign permanently affixed to the vehicle in reflective decal material with letters a minimum of 2 in. (50 mm) high. Equipment shall be installed in accordance with Section 6.20 of NFPA 58, 50.8.7.2.1, and 50.8.7.2.2. Installation shall be made in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and, in the case of approved equipment, as provided in the approval. Equipment installed on vehicles shall be protected against vehicular damage as provided for container appurtenances and connections in 2021 NFPA 1 50.8.7.4.7.5.

LP-Gas containers installed on vehicles shall not exceed 200 pounds. Disconnected LP-Gas containers and LP-Gas cylinders for purposes other than engine fuel systems shall not be transported or stored inside the vehicle. The LP-Gas supply system, including the containers, shall be installed either on the outside of the vehicle or in a recess or cabinet vapor tight to the inside of the vehicle but accessible from and vented to the outside, with the vents located near the top and bottom of the enclosure and 3 ft (1 m) horizontally away from any opening into the vehicle below the level of the vents. Containers shall be mounted securely on the vehicle or within the enclosing recess or cabinet.

Fuel containers shall be mounted to prevent jarring loose and slipping or rotating, and the fastenings shall be designed and constructed to withstand, without permanent visible deformation, static loading in any direction equal to four times the weight of the container filled with fuel. Where containers are mounted within a vehicle housing, the securing of the housing to the vehicle shall comply with this provision. Any removable portions of the housing or cabinet shall be secured while in transit. Cylinders shall have permanent protection for cylinder valves and connections.

Containers mounted on the interior of passenger-carrying vehicles shall be installed in compliance with Section 11.9 of NFPA 58. Pressure relief valve installations for such containers shall comply with 11.8.5 of NFPA 58.

Only ASME mobile LP-Gas containers in compliance with the following shall be used:

- (1) A maximum allowable working pressure (MAWP) of 312 psi (2.2 MPag) or higher for LP-Gas containers in-stalled in the enclosed spaces of a vehicle
- (2) A maximum allowable working pressure (MAWP) of 250 psi (1.7 MPag) or higher for LP-Gas containers in-stalled on the exterior of a vehicle

Propane containers shall be so located that the discharge from their pressure relief valves shall be not less than 3 ft (0.9 m) measured horizontally along the surface of the vehicle from any of the following located below the level of such discharge:

- (1) Openings into the vehicle
- (2) Propane-burning appliance intake and exhaust vents
- (3) All combustion engine and hydronic heating appliance exhaust terminations

Regulators shall be installed with the pressure relief vent opening pointing vertically downward to allow for drainage of moisture collected on the diaphragm of the regulator. Regulators not installed in compartments shall be equipped with a durable cover designed to protect the regulator vent opening from sleet, snow, freezing rain, ice, mud, and wheel spray. If vehicle-mounted regulators are installed at or below the floor level, they shall be installed in a compartment that provides protection against the weather and wheel spray. A flexible connector shall be installed between the regulator outlet and the fixed piping system to protect against expansion, contraction, jarring, and vibration strains. Flexibility shall be provided in the piping between a cylinder and the gas piping system or regulator.

The fixed piping system shall be designed, installed, supported, and secured to minimize the possibility of damage due to vibration, strains, or wear and to preclude any loosening while in transit. Where piping is installed outside the vehicle, it shall be installed as follows:

- (1) Piping shall be under the vehicle and below any insulation or false bottom.
- (2) Fastening or other protection shall be installed to prevent damage due to vibration or abrasion.
- (3) At each point where piping passes through sheet metal or a structural member, a rubber grommet or equivalent protection shall be installed to prevent chafing.
- (4) Gas piping shall be installed to enter the vehicle through the floor directly beneath or adjacent to the appliance served.

LP GAS SYSTEM LEAK DETECTION

All mobile and temporary cooking operations equipped with a propane appliance and an electrical system shall be equipped with a propane detector listed and marked on the device as being suitable for use in the vehicles under the requirements of UL 1484 and installed according to the terms of its listing. LP-Gas systems shall be inspected prior to each use. LP-Gas leak detection testing shall be performed every time a new LP-Gas connection is made, or an LP-Gas cylinder is changed out. LP-Gas leak detection testing shall be documented, and the documentation be held in the mobile or temporary unit and made available to the AHJ upon request.

GENERAL PROTECTIONS

Refueling of internal combustion engine power sources shall be permitted only when the electric generators and internal combustion power sources are not in use. Refueling of internal combustion engines shall not be allowed during mobile or temporary cooking operations. If the heat source is nonelectric and open flames are used, at least one listed carbon monoxide detector shall be installed.

All fat fryers shall have a lid over the oil vat that can be secured to prevent the spillage of cooking oil during transit. This lid shall be secured at all times when the vehicle is in motion.

Cooking oil storage containers can have a maximum combined volume of 120 gal or less and stored so that they will not be toppled or damaged during transport.

FIRE PROTECTIONS

Vent Hoods and cooking surfaces shall be cleaned and inspected in accordance with 2021 NFPA 96 and 2021 NFPA 1 Table 50.6.4. All fire protection equipment (fire extinguishers, hood suppression system, etc.) shall be maintained in a functioning working order. Annual Inspection shall be maintained for fire extinguishers. Bi-Annual inspection shall be maintained for all hood suppression systems. All mobile food vendors shall have a minimum of one five-pound ABC fire extinguisher. If grease latent vapors are produced, a Class K fire extinguisher shall be provided in an adequate size for the hazard presented.

Table 50.6.4 Schedule of Inspection for Grease Buildup

Type or Volume of Cooking	Inspection Frequency
Systems serving solid fuel cooking operations	Monthly
*Systems serving high-volume cooking operations	Quarterly
Systems serving moderate-volume cooking operations	Semiannually
†Systems serving low-volume cooking operations	Annually

*High-volume cooking operations include 24-hour cooking, charbroiling, and wok cooking.

†Low-volume cooking operations include churches, day camps, seasonal businesses, and senior centers.

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

All vendors shall meet the operational permit requirements of The University of Texas at Dallas prior to operating on the campus. Yearly operational permits are issued by UT Dallas Auxiliary Services. All vendors must meet their requirements, as well as pass inspection by UT Dallas Fire & Life Safety. Any vendor found in violation of this requirement will be escorted off the property. UT Dallas operational permit shall be displayed at all times while operating on the campus.

REFERENCED CODES AND STANDARDS

2021 NFPA 1 – Fire Code

2021 NFPA 30 – Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

2020 NFPA 58 – Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code

2020 NFPA 70 – National Electric Code

2021 NFPA 96 – Standard for Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations

2021 NFPA 1192 – Standard on Recreational Vehicles