

Food Service Licensing

Frequently Asked Questions



What types of food licenses are available?

Fixed Food Service: An annual license issued to a fixed location establishment that meets the minimum requirements of the Michigan Food Law of 2000, as amended and FDA Food Code of 2005.

Special Transitory Food Unit (STFU): An annual license issued to those units that are self-contained and meet the minimum requirements of the Michigan Food Law of 2000, as amended, and the FDA Food Code of 2005. These are usually wheeled units that travel from location to location during the operating season.

Temporary Food Service Establishment: A food establishment which operates at a fixed location for a temporary period, not to exceed 14 consecutive days.

Mobile Food Units: An annual license issued to a truck style unit that must return to a licensed commissary every 24 hours.

What types of facilities require licensure?

- A fixed or mobile restaurant, coffee shop, cafeteria, short order café, luncheonette, grill, tearoom, sandwich shop, soda fountain
- Tavern, bar, cocktail lounge, nightclub
- Drive-in, food concession
- Industrial or institutional feeding establishment
- Private organization serving the public
- Rental hall, catering kitchen
- Delicatessen, theater, commissary
- A bed & breakfast that has more than 10 rooms for rent, if the bed and breakfast serves MORE than continental breakfasts
- Any place in which food or drink is prepared for consumption either on or off the site
- Any other eating or drinking establishment or operation where food is served or provided for the public.

What Type of Facilities DO NOT Require Licensure?

- A motel that serves continental breakfasts only
- A bed & breakfast that has 10 or fewer sleeping rooms.
- A bed & breakfast that has more than 10 sleeping rooms for rent, if the bed and breakfast serves continental breakfasts ONLY.
- A charitable, religious, fraternal, or other nonprofit organization operating a home-prepared baked goods sale or serving only home-prepared food in connection with its meetings or as part of a fund-raising event
- An inpatient food operation located in a health facility*
- A facility that is a primary residence and the food operation is limited to serving meals to the occupants as part of their living arrangement. Such as in a prison*, jail, state mental health institute*, boarding house, fraternity or sorority house, convent
- A facility serving packaged food ONLY

Have more questions, or want to apply for a license?

Visit: www.allegancounty.org/health/environmental-health

Call: 269-673-5415

OR visit the MDARD website: www.michigan.gov/mdard



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