



IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR MOBILE FOOD VENDORS

What You Need to Know About the New State Licensing Requirement

House Bill 2844 (89th Texas Legislature, 2025) created Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 437B, establishing a statewide licensing framework for Mobile Food Vendors, effective July 1, 2026. In response, the City of Dallas adopted Ordinance No. 33283 (December 10, 2025), eliminating the local permit requirement for Mobile Food Vendors operating within the City.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. Who licenses Mobile Food Vendors now?

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is now responsible for licensing, inspecting, and enforcing food safety requirements for all Mobile Food Vendors (MFV) throughout Texas. This change is effective July 1, 2026.

Q2. Does the City of Dallas still issue MFV permits?

No, under state law, the City of Dallas no longer licenses or conducts routine food safety inspections for Mobile Food Vendors. Those responsibilities have transferred exclusively to DSHS.

Q3. How do I apply for my DSHS license?

Apply directly through the DSHS Mobile Food Vendor Program:
Phone: 512-834-6727
Email: mobilefoodlicense@dshs.texas.gov

Q4. Do MFVs still follow City of Dallas rules?

Yes. Texas Health & Safety Code §437B.101 requires Mobile Food Vendors to comply with all state and local laws, including fire codes, location restrictions, and zoning ordinances. A DSHS license does not exempt vendors from local requirements.

Q5. I have a DCHHS permit. Is it still valid?

If you currently hold a DCHHS Mobile Food Vendor permit, please refer to DSHS guidance regarding statewide licensing requirements and transition procedures.

Q6. Who do I contact for a food safety complaint?

Report food safety concerns directly to DSHS:
Phone: 512-406-2644
Email: mobilefoodvendor@dshs.texas.gov

Q7. Can MFVs operate anywhere in Dallas?

No. Your DSHS license does not override local zoning ordinances, location restrictions, property owner permissions, or fire safety requirements. Always confirm local approvals before operating at a new location.

Q8. Are temporary food events affected?

No. House Bill 2844 applies specifically to Mobile Food Vendors. Temporary food events may still require local permits, and temporary food establishments may continue to be regulated by the appropriate permitting authority, depending on the type of event or operation.

Q9. Will the City inspect my food truck or push cart for food safety?

No. Food safety MFV inspections are conducted exclusively by DSHS under the new statewide licensing program. The City of Dallas no longer has jurisdiction over MFV food safety.

Q10. Is guidance available in Spanish?

Yes. DSHS has published a Spanish-language Mobile Food Vendor Guide. See the Additional Resources section below for the direct link.

CONTACT DSHS DIRECTLY

Licensing — New Applications & Renewals

Phone: 512-834-6727
Email: mobilefoodlicense@dshs.texas.gov

Food Safety Complaints & Enforcement

Phone: 512-406-2644
Email: mobilefoodvendor@dshs.texas.gov

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

DSHS MFV Program Overview: dshs.texas.gov/retail-food-establishments/permits-retail-food-establishments/mobile-food-vendors

Mobile Food Vendor Guide — English: dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/foodeestablishments/pdf/mobile-food-vendor-guide.pdf

Mobile Food Vendor Guide — Spanish: dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/foodeestablishments/pdf/2026-mobile-food-vendor-guide_spanish.pdf

How to Submit an MFV Application: dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/foodeestablishments/pdf/how-to-submit-an-mfv-application.pdf

Pushcart Vendor Guidance: dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/foodeestablishments/pdf/pushcart-guidance-2026.pdf

