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| Title: Iowa Temporary Food Establishment Licensing | | |
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TEMPORARY FOOD ESTABLISHMENT BASIC REQUIREMENTS

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- Iowa follows the [2017 FDA Food Code](#) (with the 2019 Supplement). It complies with [Iowa Code 137F](#) and Iowa Administrative Codes [Chapter 30](#) and [Chapter 31](#). These regulations govern food establishments.
- All licensed facilities must follow State and Local Fire and Building Codes. If you have any questions, please contact your local agencies.

To apply for a Temporary Food License or an Event Registration License:

<https://dial.iowa.gov/licenses/food-hotels/apply-food-license>

LICENSE TYPES:

*For the purpose of a License, an **Event** is defined as a significant occurrence or happening that is sponsored by one or more of the following organization types: Civic, government, community, veteran, or business organization. Events may also include athletic contests.*

- **Event Registration License-** \$50.00 must be received from the Event (event coordinator, host, or sponsoring organization putting on the event) a minimum of 60 days before the event
 - An Event Registration license is not required for an event having 10 or fewer temporary food vendors, a fair (as defined in Iowa Code section 174.1, such as a county or state fair), or a farmer's market.
- **Single Event Temporary Food License-** \$50.00 A Temporary Food Establishment operating for a period of no more than 14 consecutive days in conjunction with a single event.
 - An "event" does not include a single store's grand opening or sale. (This includes sales or promotions at a bar, brewery, winery, etc.)
- **Annual Temporary Food License-** \$200 license applications must be received a minimum of 30 days prior to the first event for complete processing and approval.
 - An Annual Temporary License allows the permit holder to operate and vend food for up to 14 consecutive days in conjunction with one event at a time anywhere within the state of Iowa.
 - People who operate simultaneously at more than one event or more than one stand are required to have a separate license for each food stand.
 - **Annual Temporary Food License Applications not received, processed, and approved prior to operating will require a single event temporary food license until the annual license is approved and issued. (Subject to penalty fees when operating without an approved license.)

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- **Mobile Food License-** aka- Food Truck or Pushcart
 - Mobile Units operating for longer than 3 days at an Event without returning to their Home Base of Operation are required to obtain a Temporary Food License.
 - Push carts must return to their Home Base of Operation daily or obtain a Temporary Food License.
- **Food Service or Retail License,** aka- Restaurant, Grocery Store. This license may only be used on the premises for which the license was issued. License applications must be received a minimum of 30 days prior to opening for complete processing and approval. A licensed establishment may set up a food stand on their own premises without an additional food license requirement.
- **Non-profit organizations** that are operating on their own property, for one day, are not required to obtain a temporary food license.

All Event Coordinators and Food and Beverage Vendors:

It is important that you read through the information provided to assist you in the licensing and operational requirements for food service and sales during your event:

- [Food and Beverage Operation Guide](#) (Updated February 2025)
- [VIDEO: Temporary Food Stand- Licensing Requirements](#)
- [VIDEO: Temporary Food Stand- Operating Requirements](#)
- [Regulatory Requirements for Temporary Food Establishments](#)
- [Properly equipped food stand- Example](#)
- [Handwashing at temporary food stand– Example](#)
- [Temporary food establishment vendor check list– Print and Use](#)
- [Temporary food employee log book– Print and Use](#)
- [Temporary Event Coordinator questionnaire– Submit to your Inspector](#)
- [Non-profit Organization licensing chart](#)
- [Cottage Food sold in temporary food stands-](#) Cottage food may only be sold in a cottage food producer's food stand.