



Information for Food Truck Vendors

GENERAL, LOCATION AND OPERATIONAL CRITERIA

1. Vendors need to properly establish their business in order to operate in the County. DED provides a guidance document for [“Starting a Business in St Mary’s County MD?”](#) that provides the basic steps that may be required for getting a business started.
2. **County Regulations:** Food trucks (here after called mobile units per the Health Department criteria) are not currently regulated in the County’s Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance. However, to avoid safety issues and enforcement actions due to complaints, mobile unit operators are urged to adhere to the following:
 - a. Operators of Mobile Units should be able to show upon demand written permission from the owner of each site where they offer food services.
 - b. Mobile units cannot operate in a public road right-of-way (ROW) unless the operator can show upon demand written permission from the entity that owns that ROW.
 - c. Location of a mobile unit, any transport vehicle, and any lines cueing to place orders or pickup food should not obstruct access of vehicles to or from a public right-of-way, handicapped accessible parking spaces or loading spaces, and should not force pedestrians to cue or wait in areas with through traffic within parking lots.
 - d. If a Mobile unit remains in service at a single site other than the location of the Commissary Base of Operations for more than 30 days in any 60 day period, the County may require the unit to relocate or may determine that the business is operating in a fixed structure that must conform to **Schedule 50.4 Use Classifications, Use Types and**

Location within Zoning Districts and CZO Chapter 51: Use Regulations and Standards for Use 74. Restaurant, Fast Food which is subject to permits and site plan approval.

3. Food trucks/mobile units seeking to operate at a St. Mary's County-sponsored farm market must primarily serve locally grown or produced foods.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT CRITERIA

1. Mobile units that wish to operate only in St. Mary's County should submit an application for plan review renovation, and complete the [Mobile Unit Plan Review Checklist](#).
 - a. Mobile Units that have a current license in another Maryland county and wish to be licensed in St. Mary's should submit an application for a [Mobile Unit Reciprocity License](#).
 - b. All mobile units are required to have a commissary or base of operations; please submit the [Commissary Agreement Form](#) with the application.
2. **Finding a Commissary Kitchen:** St. Mary's County has existing facilities capable of meeting the requirements necessary to serve as Commissary or Base of Operation. Contact the Agricultural Division Manager for more information.