

Food Establishment - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What permits are required to open a restaurant?

A: The Board of Health issues a Permit to Operate a Food Establishment to any place where food is prepared and/or offered to the public. The facility may also require a Common Victualers License from the Selectmen's Office.

Q: What licenses are required to operate a mobile unit or a pushcart?

A: In order to operate a mobile food unit, the owner or operator must first obtain a Mobile Food Permit from the Board of Health.

Q: Are plastic gloves required in a food preparation or food service area?

A: Plastic gloves are required and must be disposed of after each task is completed. Multiple uses of plastic gloves is prohibited.

Q: Is a license transferable?

A: No. A new license must be issued from one establishment to another.

Q: How long is a temporary license valid?

A: A temporary license is used for specific events and is valid for the duration of the event only.

Q: Does a caterer need a permit?

A: A caterer is required to register if they are providing services in the Town of Spencer.

Q: Is a food establishment required to have a Food Safety Certificate (Serv-Safe)?

A: Yes. Any food establishment that prepares potentially hazardous food must obtain a Food Safety Certificate (Serv-Safe).

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