

# FOOD TRUCKS & CARTS

*A Guide Through the Permitting process*



## STEP ONE

### *Decide on Type of Food You Will be Offering*

- ◆ Unpackaged, perishable foods (e.g., catering, soft-serve or scoop ice cream, cappuccino, cut melon).
- ◆ Packaged, perishable foods (e.g., grocery, whole fish and aquatic invertebrates, ice cream).
- ◆ Unpackaged, non-perishable food (e.g., pre-made churro and pretzel, coffee, shaved ice).
- ◆ Packaged, non-perishable foods (e.g., whole fruits, chips, bottled sodas, candies).

## STEP TWO

### *Find the Right Food Truck or Cart*

Before purchasing:

- ◆ Check with Long Beach Business Licensing for requirements to operate a food truck or cart.
- ◆ Check with the Planning Bureau to make sure your proposed operation location(s) are allowed.
- ◆ Check with Environmental Health Bureau to become familiar with plan check and inspection process.



## STEP THREE

### *Building, Purchasing or Leasing a Food Truck or Cart*

- ◆ Check with reputable food truck/trailer or cart manufacturers for construction.
- ◆ Make sure the truck/cart meets mobile food facility requirement per the California Retail Food Code. Refer to Mobile Food Facility guidelines on [longbeach.gov/eh](http://longbeach.gov/eh).
- ◆ Submit plans for new or used carts and trucks that sell unpackaged food. Plans can be submitted to Development Services. [longbeach.gov/lbds/building/project-submittal/](http://longbeach.gov/lbds/building/project-submittal/)
- ◆ Carts and trucks with no electrical and plumbing that sell only prepackaged and non-perishable foods are not required to submit plans.

## STEP FOUR

### *Inspection and Permitting*

Make sure you obtain plan check approval prior to building, purchasing or leasing a truck or cart.

- ◆ Make an appointment for an inspection of the food cart/truck.
- ◆ Submit signed letter from a licensed commissary where truck or cart will be stored and serviced.
- ◆ Provide a copy of a restroom use agreement.
- ◆ Show proof of Food Manager Certification (unpackaged food operators).
- ◆ Complete Health Permit Application.

***Sidewalk Vending as allowed by Senate Bill 972 still requires compliance with the California Retail Food Code. A Health Permit must be obtained before beginning any food vending operation.***



*We are here to help*

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