



TRAVIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

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Travis County Mobile Food Vendor FAQs

When is an electrical inspection required for Travis County?

An annual (yearly) electrical inspection is required, regardless if it is a new permit or a renewal.

Who can perform the electrical inspection?

A licensed electrical contractor must perform the electrical inspection and complete the electrical inspection affidavit. *A paper copy of the completed affidavit must be present at time of inspection.*

I have been operating in the City of Austin, but now want to operate in Travis County. Do I need an electrical inspection?

Yes. To operate in Travis County, you need an electrical inspection every year (annually). The City of Austin only requires an electrical inspection for your initial permit, not renewals, as Travis County does.

When is a Propane system inspection required for Travis County?

An annual (yearly) propane inspection is required, regardless if it is a new permit or a renewal. If your unit only uses electricity, no propane inspection is required.

Who can perform the propane inspection?

An LPG licensed plumber must perform the propane inspection and complete the propane inspection affidavit. *A paper copy of the completed affidavit must be present at time of inspection.*

Is an ANSUL system required in Travis County?

Currently, an ANSUL system is not required if only operating in Travis County.

An ANSUL system is required if operating within Travis County AND the City of Austin.

**Travis County will soon be adopting the 2021 International Fire Code, which will require an ANSUL system.*

If I have an ANSUL system, can I have it inspected once a year, just like my fire extinguishers?

No, an ANSUL system must be inspected every 6 months, and fire extinguishers require an annual (yearly) inspection. All required inspections must be within date at time of the inspection.

Do I need a current state vehicle or trailer registration? It never moves and stays in one location.

Only if operating in Travis County, not the City of Austin.

What detectors are required?

A CO detector and a combustible gas detector is required. Most mobile food operators use a combination detector that has both CO and combustible gas detection. If your unit only uses electricity to operate, then no detection is required.

Can I just use extension cords?

No. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. Extension cords and flexible cords shall not be affixed to structures, extended through walls, ceilings or floors, or under doors or floor coverings, nor shall such cords be subject to environmental damage or physical impact. Extension cords shall be used only with portable appliances. Non-portable appliances must have a direct outlet for power.

Can I use a multiplug adapter?

Multiplug adapters, such as cube adapters, unfused plug strips or any other device not complying with NFPA 70 shall be prohibited. A licensed electrical contractor can guide you on this during their inspection.

Can I use a “power strip”?

Yes. Power strips (relocatable power taps) are the code-compliant method to diversify an outlet. They shall be directly connected to a permanently installed receptacle. Cords shall not extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings, or be subject to environmental or physical damage.