

Food Code Fact Sheet #34

What you should know about the Code

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Mobile Food Unit Integral Operations

OAR 333-162-0020, GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Notwithstanding OAR 333-150-0000 Section 5-305.11 (D) and subsections (a) and (b) of this section, all operations and equipment shall be an integral part of the mobile food unit.

OAR 333-150-0000, CHAPTER 5-305.11 Water System Requirements.

(C) All mobile food units must be designed with integral potable and waste water tanks on board the unit. A mobile unit may connect to water and sewer if it is available at the operating location, however, the tanks must remain on the unit at all times. A mobile food unit may not connect to a fresh water system without also connecting to an approved sewer system. A mobile food unit licensed prior to February 1, 2020 in which the water tanks and associated plumbing have been removed prior to that date is not required to reinstall the water system if the unit is connected to an approved water and sewer system.^{PF}
(D) Mobile food units that utilize potable and waste water storage tanks that are not integral to the unit must discontinue the use of these tanks by January 1, 2023.^{PF}

PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:

Statewide there are challenges with non-integral items sitting on the ground around mobile units creating harborage sites for insects and rodents. Off-unit equipment can increase risk of contamination and temperature abuse of food.

Additionally, off unit water tanks became a public health problem with wastewater spillage and improper disposal on site, contaminating storm drainage and polluting our lakes and rivers.

Oregon is unique in that a mobile food unit may be allowed to operate without a commissary if the local health department approves. A commissary is a licensed kitchen for dishwashing, food storage and food preparation. If operators can show that they can do all this safely in their mobile food unit, then they are allowed to operate without a licensed commissary. Operators must keep everything that is needed attached or inside the unit.

“Integral” means that everything associated with a mobile food unit must be physically attached and secure. Call your local health inspector before attaching or storing anything outside your unit

Examples of items **not** allowed off the unit are refrigerators, freezers and water/wastewater tanks.

These have never been allowed in Oregon, but these violations are now a higher priority. This gives inspectors the ability to enforce them moving forward.

The only exception is that Class 4 mobile units may have **one** off-unit cooking device. See [Fact Sheet #20](#) for more information.

Examples that are **good** because everything is inside or attached to the unit:



Examples that are **not good** because they have items outside:

