

Gaston County

Environmental Health Division

Temporary Food Establishments

Exemptions and Exceptions

Some vendors of Temporary Food Establishments (TFEs) may be exempt from the regulations requiring a permit to prepare and sell food to the public. The vendors who meet one of the following conditions will not be required to obtain a permit to operate the TFE:

- i. Incorporated as a nonprofit corporation in accordance with Chapter 55A of the North Carolina General Statutes
- ii. Exempt from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Service Code as defined in General Statute 105-228.90 (have 501(c) (3) status)
- iii. A political committee as defined in General Statute 163-278.6(14)

A facility meeting one of the above conditions may prepare and sell food to the public without a permit from the health department for no more than two consecutive days, one time per calendar month. The Gaston County Health requires proof of the organization's tax-exempt status such as a federally issued 501 (c) (3) document or state issued tax-exempt status document.

TFE vendors who sell only non-potentially hazardous drinks, such as fresh-squeezed lemonade, coffee, tea, etc., are not required to obtain a permit from the health department.

TFE vendors who sell only dipped ice cream, popcorn, candy apples, cotton candy, funnel cakes, soft pretzels, and or pre-packaged chips or candy are not required to obtain a permit from the health department.

Questions? Please call the Gaston County Environmental Health Division at (704) 853-5200.