

Farmers Market Coordinators' Information

FARMERS MARKET COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

New markets:

- New markets must have a “field plan review” of the site completed by your Public Health inspector. The new farmer’s market plan review fee is \$486.

Annual Market Fee

- Tier 1 Farmers Market. 0-5 permitted farmers market temporary food establishments - \$911
- Tier 2 Farmers Market. 5-16 permitted farmers market temporary food establishments - \$1,094
- Tier 3 Farmers Market. 16 or more permitted farmers market temporary food establishments - \$1,337
- Farmers Markets selling only non-Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) produce (with no sampling) are exempt from the food code and fees.

Common Facilities

- Common facilities must be available prior to beginning the season.
- Before the market opens complete a review to assure the common facilities still meet the code.
- If the common facilities are at a nearby food service complete the commissary agreement letter.

Ongoing responsibilities through the market’s season:

- The market coordinator or appointed representative must be on site whenever the market is open.
- Assure that food vendors have the correct permits.
- Vendors selling foods prepared in kitchens under permit by FDA, USDA, WSDA, and/or Public Health – Seattle & King County have copies of their permits
- Assure that vendors exempt from permit have a signed Exemption Form on site.
- Assure that vendors know where the common facilities are located.
- The market coordinator is responsible for monitoring **all** vendors for safe food practices including: temperature control of foods, foods sources, proper set up of a hand washing station, and food worker use of handwashing stations.
- The market coordinator’s “checklist for vendors” is to be used by coordinators for each vendor each day the market is in operation.
- Coordinators may accept new food selling vendors during any part of the season. The new vendor must provide the approved Temporary Farmers Market Permit prior to beginning operation.

Coordinators assure that individual vendors meet the requirements

- Assure that vendors preparing food or cutting foods for sampling have food worker permits.
- Assure that farmers sampling produce have handwashing available in the booth, wash the produce that will be sampled and have no bare hand contact with the ready-to-eat produce samples.
- Proper hand-washing is available *and used* in all booths that offer unwrapped food or samples.
- All ready-to-eat foods are being handled with a barrier (no bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods).
- Foods are under proper temperature control.

For information about Farmers Markets, call the Public Health district office nearest to where the market is located:

Downtown Environmental Health: 206-263-9566

Eastgate Environmental Health: 206-477-8050

The Farmers Market information packet and temporary permit applications can also be found on our website:
<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/certificates-permits-licenses/food-business-permits/farmers-market-permit>

Types of Foods Served at Farmers Markets

- **Fruits and vegetables:** Non-TCS, non ready-to-eat, minimally cut unprocessed fruits and vegetables may be sold without a permit. Temporary permits are required for cut melons, sprouts or cut leafy greens. Farmers Markets selling only non-TCS produce (with no sampling) are exempt from the food code and market fees.
- **Sampling:** Sampling may occur provided the vendor has **handwashing in the booth**, protects the samples from contamination, and serves the samples with single service utensils such as toothpicks. TCS foods can be sampled as long as they are hot or cold. Permits will depend on the type of food sampled. A coordinator may obtain a permit to provide a demo booth for the whole market, and will then be responsible for meeting all the permit requirements.
- **Foods Exempt from Permit:** Vendors selling, or sampling foods exempt from permit but not the food code need a completed "Application for Exemption from Permit" on site. These foods include farmers sampling produce, kettle corn, corn on the cob, roasted nuts, whole roasted peppers, etc. The Application for Exemption Form is attached.
- **Foods Exempt from the food code - Commercially prepared and packaged:** These are *non*-TCS foods (refrigeration not required) that may be sold without a permit. They do not need to meet any food code requirements, as long as they are sold in their original intact package (examples: canned pop, wrapped cookies, bagged chips, packaged toffee, jam).
 - Commercially prepared means food prepared in a commercial kitchen under permit from US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and/or Public Health- Seattle & King County. **Home canned products are never allowed.**
- **Commercially packaged dairy products** may be sold in intact cartons held at 41° F or less. The sale of commercially packaged dairy products requires a permit. This includes milk, cheese, yogurt, etc. Raw milk must be properly labeled, and the raw milk warning label prominently displayed.
- **Properly labeled eggs** held at 45°F or less, may be sold by the farmer without a health department permit. Contact Washington State Department of Agriculture for permit and labeling requirements.
- **Bulk Foods:** Foods sold in bulk, like coffee beans, dried beans, lentils, granola, whole grains, dried fruit, etc., may be sold in bulk if hand-washing is available. There can be no bare hand contact with ready-to-eat bulk foods. If the foods are self-serve, utensils must be available for the public to use.
- **WSDA permitted Cottage Food Operations:** non-TCS baked goods, jams, jellies, preserved fruit butters and other non-TCS foods identified on the WSDA Cottage Food Processor Permit may be sold by the permit holder. The foods need to be prepackaged and labeled. Except a container of bulk baked goods may be sold with a product label sheet containing all the required labeling information. The label should include the statement "Made in a Home Kitchen that has not been subject to standard inspection criteria." A copy of the WSDA Cottage Food Permit must be posted in the booth.
- **Farmers Market Temporary Food Service Permits:** Applications are available at our district offices or online at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dph/certificates-permits-licenses/food-business-permits/farmers-market-permit>
- The type of farmers market temporary permit required is based on the type of food served.

FOODS EXEMPT FROM THE FOOD CODE AND NOT CONSIDERED A FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT - WAC 246-215 (48) (c)

A Health Department Permit is not required

- An establishment that offers only food that is not Time/Temperature Control for Safety (TCS) food prepackaged in a licensed food establishment or food processing plant.
- An establishment that offers only minimally cut unprocessed fruits, vegetables and fresh herbs that are non-TCS food or ready-to-eat food.
- An establishment that offers only ready-to-eat food that is non-TCS food produced in a licensed food establishment or food processing plant (such as premixed soda pop, powdered creamer, pretzels, cookies, doughnuts, cake, or meat jerky) that are served without direct hand contact, with limited portioning, directly onto or into sanitary single-use articles or single-service articles from the original package.
- An establishment that offers only non-TCS hot beverages (such as coffee, hot tea, or hot apple cider) served directly into sanitary single-service articles. The addition of milk, cream, almond milk, etc. requires a permit.
- An establishment that offers only dry, non-TCS, non ready-to-eat foods (such as dry beans, dry grains, in-shell nuts, coffee beans, tea leaves, or herbs for tea)
- An establishment that offers only prepackaged frozen confections produced in a licensed food establishment or food processing plant

Office use only:

Approved

Denied

Expires _____

Application for exemption from permit

This application is based on WAC 246-215-08305 (Washington State Retail Food Code).

Only the following food items may be exempted from the permit.

Check all the boxes that apply to your food business.

- Individual samples of non-TCS* sliced fruits and vegetables.
- Popcorn and flavored popcorn prepared from commercially packaged non-TCS* ingredients.
- Dried herbs and spices processed in an approved facility.
- Crushed ice drinks containing only non-TCS* ingredients and dispensed from a self-contained machine that makes its own ice. Snow cones, and shaved ice are not included.
- Corn on the cob (prepared with butter, shake on spices or commercial mayonnaise in squeeze bottle only).
- Whole roasted peppers.
- Roasted nuts, roasted peanuts, and roasted candy-coated nuts.
- Chocolate-dipped ice cream bars prepared from prepackaged ice cream bars produced in a food processing plant.
- Chocolate-dipped bananas prepared from bananas peeled and frozen in an approved facility.
- Cotton candy.

***TCS Food** (Time/Temperature Control for Safety Food) – food that requires time/temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation. Examples include meat, fish, milk, eggs, cut melons, cut leafy greens, sprouts, and cooked plant foods.

Applicant

Phone

Business Name

Email

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

The Washington State Food Code allows for selling specific food items without a Food Establishment permit. All applicable food safety rules are required to be followed during food service. This permit exemption must be submitted at least 14 days prior to serving food and must be approved by the Public Health - Seattle & King County. Once approved, this exemption will be valid for two years. Please review a list of exempt food items on the left and the food safety rules below.

Food Safety Requirements: All food safety rules must be followed, or the exemption will no longer be valid. Read the statements below and check the box to indicate that you will comply with the rules. **All items must be checked and completed for approval.**

- Have copies of Washington State Food Worker Cards in the booth.
- A 5-gallon or larger gravity-flow insulated container is required for handwashing in the booth. The container needs a spigot that can lock in the open position to wash both hands. Fill the container with warm water. Provide soap, paper towels, and a bucket for wastewater.
- No bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods. Use barriers like tongs, bakery papers, or gloves. Workers with symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, jaundice, or sore throat with a fever cannot work.
- Food workers must have restrooms with warm water for handwash. Workers must wash their hands after using the restroom and again when they return to the booth.
- All utensils will be washed, rinsed, sanitized, and air-dried before use.
- Bring extra utensils to change out as needed.
- Water, ice, and food are from approved sources. Homemade food or home storage of food, utensils, or equipment is not allowed.
- Store food, utensils, and single service items off the ground.
- Dishwashing, cleaning equipment, storage, and limited preparation will occur at an approved commissary kitchen facility.
- Name & address of commissary (REQUIRED):

Commissary Name

Commissary Address

Signature of Applicant *Date*

Regulatory Authority *Date*

SEATTLE
401 5th Ave, Suite 1100
Seattle, WA 98104
206-263-9566

EASTGATE
14350 SE Eastgate Way
Bellevue, WA 98007
206-477-8050

A copy of this approved exemption application must be at the site of operation.

Daily Checklist

Checklist Date _____

VENDOR	HANDWASH SET UP COMPLETE	HANDS WASHED IN BOOTH	FOOD PROTECTED SNEEZE GUARDS	PRODUCE FOR SAMPLES WASHED	NO BAREHAND CONTACT	FOOD TEMPS *HOT:		FOOD TEMPS *COLD		CORRECTIVE ACTION
						135° and above	Recheck if not hot enough	41° and below	Recheck if not cold enough	

Notes:

- *Permits:* A copy of the required permit must be available for every food vendor. This includes WSDA food processor permits, temporary permits or exempt from permit forms. Meat or fish from USDA or WSDA permitted facility.
- *Food Worker Permit(s):* Each vendor needs a copy in the booth.

To complete the checklist: *Vendor:* List ALL food vendors by name

- *Handwashing Set-up:* At least five gallons of warm water from an insulated container with a free-flowing spigot; soap and paper towels and waste container available. If not set up properly, food handling must stop. Handwash must be set up prior to handling any food. Hands must be washed as needed. It should be obvious that hands were washed (water in waste bucket, paper towels in waste, etc.)
- *Food Protected:* All food protected from contamination. Sneeze guards as needed.
- *Barehand Contact:* No bare hand contact with ready-to-eat foods. Use utensils, gloves, bakery papers etc.
- *Food Temperatures:* Hot or cold or both, record food item plus temperature. Recheck any food temperatures that were not correct at the first round and record temperature. Reheat food to 165° F before hot holding.
- *Corrective Actions:* Record what action taken (i.e. reheated, handwash set up, soap obtained, ice added, food discarded for any “no” observed)

FORM MUST BE KEPT ON FILE AT THE MARKET AND GIVEN TO HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING VISITS

Coordinator Signature _____