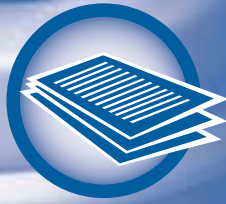


# food industry fact sheet



## Licensing guidelines for mobile catering businesses

### Do I need to be licensed to operate a catering business?

Yes. In all instances, you will be required to obtain a licence under the *Food Act 1981* from your local government. Significant penalties apply for failing to be licensed.

In Queensland a food businesses is required to be licensed and registered in the local government area where the food business operates. If the food business operates in more than one local government area then the food business needs to be registered in all local government areas where the food business operates. This includes food businesses that do charity, on site, off site and mobile catering.

### On site catering

This is where a food business prepares food at a client's or caterer's kitchen and then serves the food at the client's premises. The vehicle is used only to transport food. You must be able to produce safe food from a client's kitchen. If the on-site facilities are not suitable, it is the responsibility of the caterer to ensure that the necessary facilities are provided.

### Off site or mobile catering

Where a food business prepares food at a kitchen and then delivers the food to the client. The premises from which food for sale is produced must be registered and the operator licensed no matter whether the food business is of a charitable or commercial nature. This includes both home and commercial kitchens. The vehicle is used only to transport food.

### In vehicle catering

Where a food vehicle is kept or used for the preparation, handling or serving of any food for sale. The vehicle is required to be registered and the operator licensed. This may include ice cream vans eg. "Mr Whippy", hot dog vans, pie vans etc. You may also require a mobile food vending permit (see the **Provisions associated with operating a mobile catering businesses** fact sheet). If you have a premises where food is stored this must be registered.

### How do I get licensed and registered?

Complete details on the specific requirements for your premises or vehicle are detailed in the **Licence and Registration Package** available from your local government. Your local government Environmental Health Officer can advise you of the requirements that are applicable to your particular operation

### Where do I go for more information?

- **Restaurant and Catering Queensland**  
PO Box 101  
Royal Brisbane Hospital  
QLD 4029  
Telephone: 07 3252 8880  
Facsimile: 07 3252 7554

Email:  
[rcqld@restaurantcater.asn.au](mailto:rcqld@restaurantcater.asn.au)

Web Site:  
[www.restaurantcater.asn.au](http://www.restaurantcater.asn.au)

or contact the Environmental Health Officer from your local government.



Queensland  
Government  
Queensland Health



LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
OF QUEENSLAND INC.



Australian  
Institute of  
Environmental  
Health

A joint initiative between **Restaurant and Catering Queensland, Queensland Health, Local Government Association of Queensland** and the **Australian Institute of Environmental Health** to assist the food service industry produce safe food.