



Starting a Food Business

FOOD BUSINESS LICENCING REQUIREMENTS

Anyone providing food for sale has an obligation under the *Food Act 2006* (the Act) and the *Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code) to ensure that the food is safe and suitable for consumption. In accordance with the Act, businesses that handle food may be required to hold a food business licence.

Examples of licensable food businesses include:

- Cafes, restaurants or takeaway shops
- Home based businesses*
- Catering businesses
- Not-for-profit organisations holding 12 or more events per year
- Water carrier businesses*
- Mobile food businesses*
- Temporary food stalls*

*Separate fact sheets are available for these businesses

Certain businesses do not require a licence. These include businesses that only sell prepackaged food, tea and coffee, ice or flavoured ice (eg. slushies) and some low risk snack foods.

You must contact Council to determine if you require a licence or food safety program **before** you commence operating.

APPLYING FOR A FOOD BUSINESS LICENCE

Prior to operating a new or existing food business an 'Application for Food Business Licence' will need to be submitted to Council for assessment.

Following are other requirements that may be needed when submitting your application form:

- Submit required plans specific to the Licence type - refer to the Application for a Food Business Licence form for specific plans required, and refer to the Food Premises Fit Out Guide for minimum design requirements (N.B. it is recommended that plans be submitted to Council for assessment prior to commencing construction to avoid any costly design errors)

- Nominate a Food Safety Supervisor (refer to fact sheet - Food Safety Supervisor)
- Develop a food safety program, if needed. Some high risk food businesses are required to have a food safety program.
- Ensure compliance with any Council Planning Scheme and Local Law requirements by obtaining:
 - Development approval – may be required for a new premise or changes to an existing premise;
 - Building approval – may be required for construction and renovation of buildings, including internal shop fit outs;
 - Plumbing and Drainage approval – may be required for installing or altering plumbing and draining (including the installation of a grease trap);
 - Trade Waste permit – may be required for discharge from a food premises to the sewerage system;
 - Local Law Permits – the placement of advertising signage or dining tables and chairs on the footpath may also require a permit from Council.
- Health Search - It is also recommended that if purchasing an existing licensed premise the applicant undertakes a full health records search prior to purchase. This will provide up-to-date information about the business' level of compliance.

MORE INFORMATION

Fact sheets, application forms and fees and charges are available on Council's website www.banana.qld.gov.au/council-services/food.

More detailed information for anyone stating a new business can be found on the Queensland Health website www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/environmental/food or on the Queensland Government's Business Queensland website www.business.qld.gov.au

How can you contact us?



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