



Yakima Health District

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Catering and Event Vending Guide

A catering license or endorsement allows you to serve food at private events (such as weddings, quinceañeras, corporate events, etc). An event vending license or endorsement allows you to operate as a temporary food establishment at approved public events (such as pop-ups, festivals, fairs, farmers markets, etc). Catering and Event Vending DO NOT allow operation with a temporary setup on an ongoing basis unrelated to an approved event (such as at parks, parking lots, breweries, etc). Such activity is not allowable per the Washington State Retail Food Code without a mobile food unit.

Endorsements are an add-on to an existing or new annual food license, whereas a standalone license ONLY allows you to operate at events (no retail sales allowed from the commissary kitchen location). Catering and event vending must meet the code definitions below.

WAC 246-215-01115 (13) defines "Catering Operation" as either:

- A) *A person who contracts with a client to prepare a specific menu and amount of food in an approved food establishment for service to the client's guests or customers at a different location, or;*
- B) *consistent with its application under 08325, a catering operation approved for a permit may cook or perform final preparation on certain food at the service location.*

Per WAC 246-215-01115 (126), "Temporary Food Establishment" refers to a food establishment:

- A) *Operating at a fixed location, with a fixed menu, for not more than twenty-one consecutive days in conjunction with a single event or celebration, such as a fair or festival; or*
- B) *Operating not more than three days a week at a fixed location, with a fixed menu, in conjunction with an APPROVED, recurring, organized event, such as a farmers market*

If you currently have a licensed food and beverage establishment and would like approval for a catering endorsement and/or an event vendor endorsement to serve food off-site, you must:

- Submit the Catering and Event Vendor Application
- Pay the \$180.00 annual Endorsement fee. This endorsement will be listed on your annual Food and Beverage License.

If you would like to license a NEW catering and event vending operation, you must:

- Submit a signed Commissary Agreement and Usage to use an approved commissary kitchen for preparation of food, storage, and ware washing.
- Submit the Catering and Event Vendor Application
- Apply for a New Food and Beverage License (See "Apply for a New Establishment Guide")
- Pay the Food and Beverage License fee per the Risk-Based Categorization Level determined by the proposed menu

Standalone Catering/Event Vending-**only** operations do not need the \$180 Endorsement, as they are licensed as a standalone catering/event vendor operation and pay the license fee that corresponds with their risk-level.

Temporary Food Establishment (TFE) permits are available for infrequent events or smaller operations without a commissary kitchen.