

✓ 1. Step-by-Step Startup Checklist (St. Louis Food Truck – City & County)

This is the exact order you should follow when launching a new food truck in St. Louis.

01

Form your business

Register your LLC or corporation with the Missouri Secretary of State and obtain your EIN.

02

Apply for Missouri Sales Tax License

Register with the Missouri Department of Revenue so you can legally collect and remit sales tax.

03

Secure a commissary kitchen

Missouri requires all food trucks to operate from a licensed commissary; obtain a signed commissary agreement.

04

Obtain health permits

Apply for the St. Louis City or St. Louis County Mobile Food Unit Permit depending on where you will operate.

05

Complete fire safety inspection

Schedule and pass the required fire safety inspection for propane, hood systems, and suppression equipment.

06

Get local vending permits

Apply for the St. Louis City Street Department Vending Permit or municipality-specific permits in the County.

07

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Prepare the truck for inspection

Ensure equipment, refrigeration, plumbing, and sanitation meet code before the health department walkthrough.

08

Obtain insurance coverage

Secure general liability, auto liability, and workers' compensation if applicable; list required entities as Additional Insured.

09

Pass final inspections

Complete health, fire, and vending inspections to receive your operational approvals.

10

Begin operations legally

Once all permits, licenses, and inspections are approved, you may operate in St. Louis City, County, and permitted municipalities.

✓ 2. Side-by-Side Comparison: St. Louis City vs. St. Louis County Requirements

Below is a clear comparison so you know exactly what applies where.

St. Louis City Requirements

Business License – Required for any business operating in the City

Mobile Food Unit Permit (Health Department) – Mandatory for food trucks

Fire Safety Unit Registration & Inspection – Annual requirement

Street Department Vending Permit – Required for operating on public streets, parks, or events

Commissary Agreement – Required by Missouri law

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St. Louis County Requirements

County Mobile Food Unit Permit – Required for operation in unincorporated County

Municipality-Specific Permits – Each city (Clayton, Kirkwood, etc.) may require its own vending or event permit

Fire Safety Inspection – Required depending on municipality

Commissary Agreement – Required by Missouri law

★ What Applies Everywhere (City + County + State + Federal)

These are universal requirements no matter where you operate:

State of Missouri

- **Missouri Sales Tax License**
- **Certified Food Protection Manager (ANSI-accredited)**

Federal

- **EIN (Employer Identification Number)**

Missouri Law

- **Licensed commissary kitchen**
- **Food truck must meet all health code standards**

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