

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
PO BOX 809
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0809
609-633-6132
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Cooking Vendor, Tent & Canopy Guidelines



NJ UNIFORM FIRE CODE: COOKING VENDOR GUIDELINES

- The following are minimum guidelines for each cooking vendor at festivals, carnivals, etc.
- A site plan may be required by the Fire Official prior to event.

FIRE SAFETY PERMIT: An application for permit shall be submitted online through Fire Solutions for each vendor for every event. Any change in use, operation or tenancy shall require a new permit.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a); All cooking vendors shall apply for fire safety permit online through Fire Solutions, issued by the NJ Division of Fire Safety. All permits shall be made available to the fire official upon inspection.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a)3xix; Mobile or temporary food preparation activities, where open flame or flame-producing devices or appliances are used, or grease-laden vapors are produced.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(c)1; Type 1 Permit Fee \$54.00-**NO CASH** will be accepted-vendors shall apply for a permit and pay the permit fee online through Fire Solutions. Permits will not be issued unless an inspection is completed with no violations and the payment is made in full. This is an application processing fee and is not refundable.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(f); The fire official upon inspection may deny or revoke a permit at any time; this can be due to failure to meet the permit conditions, unabated fire code violations or unsafe conditions.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER: All cooking vendors shall supply their own fire extinguishers.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 906.2; All fire extinguishers shall be selected, installed, and maintained with NFPA 10/2013.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.12.5; Class K portable fire extinguishers are required for cooking with vegetable or animal oils and fats.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.12.5.1; Class K portable fire extinguishers are required for cooking with solid fuel.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.12.5.2; Class K portable fire extinguishers required for deep fat fryers. (See IFC 2015-NJ for size and quantity)

All fire extinguishers shall have a valid dated inspection tag, good of one year.

PROPANE TANK:

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 5303.5.3; Propane tanks shall be secured, to prevent falling over.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 6101.1; Propane tanks and equipment shall comply with NFPA 58/2014.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 6103.2.1; Propane tanks shall not be taken into buildings/tents, (see 2006-1 for exceptions)

Mobile Canteens & Cooking Trailers:

N.J.A.C. 5:70-609.1; Commercial kitchen hoods including mobile enclosed units shall be maintained in accordance with the mechanical sub-code of the UCC and NFPA 96.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g)3; All cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors shall be equipped with a ventilating hood, duct, and automatic fire suppression system.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.6; Dry chemical extinguishing systems shall be maintained and inspected semi-annually as per NFPA 17/2013.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 904.5; Wet chemical extinguishing systems shall be maintained and inspected semi-annually as per NFPA 17A/2013.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 609.3.3.2; Excessive grease and residue buildup on kitchen exhaust systems, cleaning required.

MISCELLANEOUS:

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 104.3; All appliances shall be listed and labeled and approved by the fire code official. (No homemade appliances).

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3103.8.2; No vehicles shall be parked within 5 feet of tents or canopies.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3104.15.3; Suitable barricades shall be provided to maintain a distance of 5 feet between the heat producing appliance and the public.

- Propane tanks between 4 and 40 lbs shall have an Overfill Protection Device for filling in NJ.
- Propane tanks shall be hydro tested every 12 years, and not dented or excessively rusted.
- Regulator shall be in good condition and the relief valve shall face away from the public areas.
- All plastic type protective caps shall be removed from all propane tanks before operating.
- Hoses shall not be frayed or cracked, and there shall not be any type of tape on the hose.
- Hoses shall not be covered with grease and shall not be swollen.
- Hoses shall not create a tripping hazard.
- Only approved lighter fluid shall be used for charcoal grills.
- Sterno warmers may be used provided the fuel containers are properly protected from being knocked over and if the fuel containers are properly enclosed within the warmer units.

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NJ UNIFORM FIRE CODE: TENTS/CANOPIES

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a)3xv; All vendors with tents/canopies meeting the below, shall be required to apply for a fire safety permit for each tent/canopy for every event online through Fire Solutions, issued by the NJ Division of Fire Safety. All permits shall be made available to the fire official upon inspection.

- All tents/canopies greater than 900 square feet with or without side panels will require a separate permit for each. (up to 16800 square feet)
- All tents/canopies greater than 30 feet in any dimension will require a separate permit for each. (up to 140 feet)
- All tents/canopies that will remain in place for fewer than 180 days.
- All tents/canopies that are used or occupied between April 1 and November 30.
- All tents/canopies that do not have a permanent anchoring system or foundation.
- All tents/canopies that contain platforms and bleachers up to 11 feet in height.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(c)1; Type 1 Permit Fee \$54.00-**NO CASH** will be accepted-vendors shall submit an application for permit and pay the permit fee online through Fire Solutions. Permits will not be issued unless an inspection is completed with no violations and the payment is made in full. This is an application processing fee and is not refundable.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(f); The fire official upon inspection may deny or revoke a permit at any time; this can be due to failure to meet the permit conditions, unabated fire code violations or unsafe conditions.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3104.12; Fire extinguishers - at least one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating, or two portable fire extinguishers with a minimum 2-A rating each, shall be provided in/under all tents as required by section 906.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3104.2; Tents/canopies shall be constructed of fire retardant materials or be properly treated as per NFPA 701/2010. Proper documentation shall be provided by the vendor upon inspection.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3104.5; Combustible materials and excessive trash shall not be located within any tent or canopy (min. 20 feet clearance).

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3104.7; Exposed flames: Gasoline, gas, charcoal or other cooking device or any other unapproved open flame shall not be permitted inside or located within 20 feet of the tent or canopy.

- **NO** cooking under tents.
- **NO** deep fryers shall be under tents.
- **NO** cooking with grease laden vapors under tents.
- Note: See Bulletin 2006-1 for further information and exceptions.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3103.12.6; Exit signs are required when the exit serves and occupant load of 50 or more.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3103.12.6.1; Exit signs shall be illuminated. 1. For occupant loads of 300 or less; or 2. An approved emergency system, for occupant loads greater than 300.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3103.12.7; Means of egress shall be illuminated from a separate circuit or source of power. (Not less than 1 foot candle (11lux) at floor level)

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3, 3103.12.8; Means of egress, width of exits, aisles and passageways shall be maintained.

- Interior finish, decorative materials and furnishings shall comply with Chapter 8.
- Occupant Load and Number of Exits shall be approved by the NJ Division of Fire Safety.

NJ UCC TENT PERMIT REQUIRED:

Larger than 16800 square feet in size, greater than 140 feet in any dimension, bleachers or platforms higher than 11 feet, up for more than 180 days and used between December 1 and March 31 or having a permanent anchoring system or foundation.

Fire Solutions <https://firesolutions.dca.nj.gov>