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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Department
From: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal
Date: August 11, 2015
RE: Food Trucks

In July of last year, a food truck explosion occurred in Philadelphia, PA that resulted in two fatalities and multiple injuries. Food trucks continue to grow in popularity throughout the Commonwealth. As a result, I am providing this updated guide to statutes and regulations applicable to food trucks. It is recommended, in some cases, that you work with other regulatory partners, when inspecting such vehicles.

- Massachusetts General Law Chapter 101, Section 3 requires transient vendors to possess a license issued by the Division of Standards. Such license shall be subject to such local rules as may be made in a city by the mayor and city council and in a town by the selectmen.
Departments may consider asking their communities to adopt rules requiring fire department inspections as a condition to such licensing.
- The State Sanitary Code, in 105 CMR 590.009 (B) requires a food permit from and inspection by the local health department, Departments should work cooperatively with their local health departments.

Inspection Considerations

Storage permits, in general are not required for vehicle mounted LP-gas cylinders. Cylinders located on the ground would require a permit.

*Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
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