Food Establishment Code

of the

Waco-McLennan County
Public Health District

Revised 2008

Environmental Health Division
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PREFACE

In 2000, all cities within McLennan County adopted the Food Establishment Code of the Waco- McLennan County Public Health District (Food Code). Each city adopted the Food Code as a city ordinance and authorized the Waco- McLennan County Public Health District to administer and enforce the ordinance.

In 2008, the Health District Board revised the model Food Code. In general, the revised model amends the previous Food Code to conform with changes to state laws as well as clarifying certain provisions that may have been too ambiguous or difficult to enforce.

From 2008 to 2011, all cities adopted the revised model Food Code as a city ordinance. Sections of the Food Code were numbered/renumbered as necessary to become part of that city’s ordinances. The text in the Food Code is worded essentially the same in every city. However; slight variations were added by some cities to accommodate that city’s administrative requirements. A copy of each city’s food code ordinance is on file at the city secretary’s office of each city.

The cities of McLennan County are:
    Bellmead
    Beverly Hills
    Bruceville-Eddy
    Crawford
    Gholson
    Golinda
    Hallsburg
    Hewitt
    Lacy-Lakeview
    Leroy
    Lorena
    McGregor
    Mart
    Moody
    Riesel
    Robinson
    Ross
    Waco
    West
    Woodway.
Section 1. Adoption of Texas Food Establishment Rules

For the purpose of regulating retail food service and retail food service establishments, the Texas Department of State Health Services Texas Food Establishment Rules found in 25 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 229, Sections 161 through 171 and 173 through 175 (as currently adopted or hereinafter amended), copies of which are on file with the office of the City Secretary, are hereby adopted and made a part of the Code as if fully set out herein, and the provisions thereof shall govern all matters covered therein within the City, except those provisions which may be in conflict with other provisions of the Code or state law.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall be titled Food Establishment Code of the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District.

Section 3. Additional Definitions

In addition to the definitions found in the Texas Food Establishment Rules, the following words and terms, when used in this ordinance, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**DSHS** – Texas Department of State Health Services.

**Food Establishment** – In addition to the definition found in the Texas Food Establishment Rules, a food establishment includes an establishment that contains more than 100 square feet of display space of commercially prepackaged food products; or licensed childcare centers that care for seven (7) or more children and which prepare food for consumption by the children other than ready to eat food for snacks and drinks.

**Frozen Food** - Food kept in a solid frozen state in cooling equipment that maintains an air temperature of zero degrees Fahrenheit or below, except for defrost cycles and brief periods of loading or unloading from the cooling equipment when the food temperature shall not exceed 41 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Non Profit Organization** – An organization with a 501(c)(3) exemption or an exemption as a “church” in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(I) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Regulatory Authority** – The Waco McLennan County Public Health District.

Section 4. Restrictions, Not Proper Facilities

Food service establishments that do not have facilities for the proper cleaning and sanitizing of utensils and food equipment shall not be allowed to prepare, package or dispense any type of unpackaged food (other than raw and uncut fruits and vegetables) or potentially hazardous food or beverages.

Section 5. Food Transportation

All food transported or delivered from a food establishment to another place shall be protected from contamination by the use of packaging or covered containers with lids except for raw, uncut fruits and vegetables. All food and food equipment being transported shall meet the applicable requirements of the food establishment rules relating to food protection, food storage, and
food temperatures. Food and food equipment may not be transported exposed or open to the elements. The compartment or area inside the vehicle that the food and food equipment is being transported in shall be kept clean, free of accumulation of dust, dirt, food particles, and any other debris. All surfaces of the compartment are to be smooth, durable, non porous, and easily cleanable. Articles not associated with the food and food equipment being transported are not to be stored in the same compartment containing the food and food equipment.

Section 6. Customer Restroom Facilities

Restroom facilities, if provided for customers, or required to be provided by law, must meet all of the provisions of the food establishment rules for restroom, toilet, and hand wash facilities. Customers may not enter food preparation, food storage, ware washing, and security sensitive areas of the food establishment to gain access to restroom facilities.

Section 7. Hand Wash Facilities

Hand Wash signs shall be posted and maintained to be easily readable at all hand wash sinks and restroom facilities used by employees of a food establishment. When hand wash facilities are not available at a bulk food display and self service area, customers, upon request, are permitted access to hand washing facilities located in employee rest rooms, provided that access to employee restrooms do not allow customers into unauthorized areas such as food preparation, ware washing, and security sensitive areas.

Section 8. Mobile Food Establishments and Roadside Vendors

In addition to the requirements set forth in the Texas Food Establishment Rules, vehicles used for and as a mobile food establishment or roadside vendor shall comply with the following:

A. Identification. Each vehicle permitted as a mobile food establishment or roadside vendor shall have printed on each side of the vehicle the name of the owner or assumed name under which the owner operates, together with the owner’s telephone number. That lettering shall be not less than 2 inches in height and not less than 5/16 stroke in width. The lettering must be maintained and legible at all times. The lettering shall be made in a permanent and durable material or manner. If faded or chipped, the lettering shall be replaced or repaired.

B. A valid food establishment permit is required for each vehicle or mobile unit. The permit must be visible to customers and inspectors at all times. If a mobile food establishment operates its own central preparation facility, the central preparation facility must be permitted separately.

C. All vehicles shall be reasonably free of dirt or rubbish and maintained in a clean and sanitary condition. The compartment(s) of the vehicle carrying food and food equipment and the food contact surfaces and non-food contact surfaces of the food equipment used in and with the vehicle shall be maintained and cleaned in accordance with the Texas Food Establishment Rules.

D. Drivers, and assistants with the drivers are to adhere to the same requirements as a food employee and have in their possession a valid food handler certificate. The driver is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of the vehicle and food equipment as often as is necessary while on duty.
E. Food equipment shall meet same design criteria and temperature criteria as a regular food establishment. The vehicle shall be equipped with a permanent power supply for the food equipment used for heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, freezing and holding of hot and cold foods. Plug in adapters to cigarette lighters are not allowed.

F. Mobile food establishments and roadside vendors including snow cone stands that prepare food on the vehicle or on location must also:

1) Comply with all requirements of a food establishment including hand wash and dishwashing sinks, cleaning operations, hot water and pest control.
2) Must have a letter of permission from the owner of the property upon which the sales are to take place to operate from that location.
3) Must have a letter of permission from the owner of that property or immediately adjacent to the property for use of restroom facilities.
4) Comply with employee food education requirements for food handlers and food managers as appropriate.

Section 9. Exemptions for Temporary Food Establishments

Provided it is operated in full compliance with the provisions of this ordinance and the Texas Food Establishment Rules, a temporary food establishment permit is not required for events or celebrations that meet one of the following conditions:

A. The event is exclusively for specific identified participants of a specific group or membership and not open to the general public.

B. The meeting, function, event, or celebration is catered from a permitted food establishment and does not require further food preparation on site.

C. The event is operated on the physical property of a permitted food establishment by the permitted food establishment with support facilities for food services operations available for use within the permitted food establishment.

D. A fund raiser for nonprofit organizations is supervised by a certified food manager or by a minimum of two individuals with food safety certification who must be in charge and have authority and responsibility to correct problems or violations.

E. A bake sale is conducted for a nonprofit organization consisting of only non-perishable foods, such as cakes and cookies, but not including pies.

F. The event provides only commercially prepackaged and no potentially hazardous foods and beverages or dispensed beverages.

G. The event provides only whole, uncut, fresh fruits and vegetables

H. The food and beverages are provided by a mobile vendor permitted by the Regulatory Authority.
Section 10. Reinspection Fees

If an establishment requires a reinspection for failure of the establishment to provide immediate correction of multiple critical items or imminent health hazards, failure to correct violations identified from the previous inspection, or when the total cumulative demerit values of an inspection report exceeds thirty (30) demerits, a reinspection fee will be charged in the amount set out in the fee schedule. Failure to pay the fee to the Regulatory Authority office before the reinspection is due, or within five (5) calendar days in the case of imminent health hazards or major critical food violations, is a violation of this ordinance.

Section 11. Employee Food Education

A. Food Establishment Employees

1) A food handler certificate must be obtained by any person employed in a food establishment with duties that require the individual:
   (a) to receive, handle, prepare, cook, display, serve, dispense or store food or drink, whether the food or drink is packaged or unpackaged, potentially hazardous or not potentially hazardous; or
   (b) To handle, store, or clean food equipment and rooms that contain food used in the food establishment.

2) Any person required to obtain a food handler certificate must do so within thirty (30) calendar days of employment. The permit holder or person in charge of a food establishment is responsible to ensure that an individual has obtained the food handler certificate within the required time period.

3) Persons not required to obtain a food handler certificate are persons whose only duty is to:
   (a) cashier,
   (b) assist customers in carry out of food items,
   (c) provide direct delivery of a food order; or
   (d) assist children and infants with their foods or meals at a childcare center; or
   (e) volunteer at a temporary event or temporary fund raiser. or
   (f) a person at a food establishment who volunteers for a particular event or project no more than once a month.

4) Persons possessing a food manager certification accredited by DSHS are not required to obtain a food handler certificate.

5) Food establishments selling only prepackaged foods and do not dispense foods and beverages are not required to have employees with food manager or food handler certificates.

6) To receive a food handler certificate, a person must pay a fee and successfully complete the training class either over the internet or in an instructor conducted class. The primary purpose of the class is to orient the person to food establishment operations, sanitation, and employee practices. It is not a substitute for extensive training which is the responsibility of each food establishment’s permit holder, manager, or supervisor.
7) If a person holding a food handler certificate does not demonstrate acceptable personal hygiene, food handling, or food safety practices to the satisfaction of the Regulatory Authority, the person may be required to retake the class within seven (7) calendar days.

8) Food handler certificates must be on display in a conspicuous location at the food establishment or readily available for review by the health inspector.

9) Food handler certificates are valid for two years. Renewal requirements are the same as that for the original certification.

10) A childcare food handler certificate may not be substituted for the food handler certificate in any food establishment.

B. Childcare Food Employees

1) Any person employed at a childcare center whose duties include the handling, preparing, or cooking of food or cleaning of food equipment shall possess a childcare food handler certificate.

2) Individuals who help serve or assist children and infants with their foods or meals are not required to obtain a childcare food handler certificate.

3) To receive a childcare food handler certificate, an individual must successfully complete the childcare food safety class.

4) The requirements to obtain, maintain, or renew a childcare food handler certificate are the same as stated for a food establishment employee, unless specifically stated otherwise in this section.

5) A food handler certificate or food manager certificate is acceptable instead of a childcare food handler certificate at a childcare facility.

C. Food Managers

1) All permanent and mobile food establishments that prepare, cook, serve, or hold potentially hazardous foods, packaged or unpackaged, shall have an individual that possesses a valid food manager certification on duty at the food establishment during the hours that the foods are handled, prepared, cooked, or served. The certified food manager shall have authority to oversee and implement procedures, requirements, instructions and other measures to provide for the safe storage, handling, preparation, and serving of all food products and food equipment.

2) A person employed to serve as a food manager who does not possess a food manager certificate must acquire the certificate within thirty (30) calendar days of employment. The food establishment permit holder or person in charge of the food establishment is responsible to ensure that the person has obtained the required certificate within that required time.

3) Certification and re-certification shall meet the criteria established by Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 438, Subchapter D, and requirements established by DSHS.

4) A person who possesses a valid food manager certification is not required to obtain a food handler certificate or a childcare food manager certificate.

5) Food establishments that provide only commercially prepackaged foods (including limited heating, dispensing, and preparing by the consumer) are not required to have a certified food manager.
D. Childcare Food Managers

1) All childcare centers shall have a person that possesses a childcare food manager certificate. The childcare food manager must be on duty during the times that foods, other than snacks, are handled, prepared, cooked, or served.

2) To receive a childcare food manager certificate, an individual must successfully complete the training class provided by the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District. Childcare food manager certificates are valid for three years. Subsequent renewal is by completing the training class again. The certificate must be on display in a conspicuous location at the childcare center.

3) A person who obtains a childcare food manager certificate is not required to obtain a childcare food handler certificate, food handler certificate, or a food manager certificate while employed at a childcare center.

4) A person who possess a valid food manager certificate is not required to obtain a childcare food manager certificate.

Section 12. Jurisdictions Outside of the Regulatory Authority

Food from food establishments outside the Regulatory Authority may be sold or served within the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Authority if such food establishments conform to the provisions of this food code and the Texas Food Establishment Rules, including permitting and transportation requirements. A valid food establishment permit from the regulatory authorities in another jurisdiction where such food establishment is located must be presented to the Regulatory Authority.

Section 13. Food Establishment Permit Requirements (including Mobile, Temporary, & Other)

A. Any person desiring to operate a food establishment must make a written application for a permit on forms provided by the Regulatory Authority.

1) The application must contain:
   (a) the applicants full name,
   (b) An indication of whether such applicant is an individual, business, or a corporation,
   (c) the location and type of the proposed food establishment,
   (d) the applicable fee and
   (e) the signature of the applicant.

2) If the application is for a temporary food establishment, it shall also include the inclusive dates and times of the proposed operation.

3) Failure to provide all information requested by the Regulatory Authority or providing false information may result in denial or revocation of the permit. An incomplete application will not be accepted.

B. Renewals of permits are required on an annual basis, except for temporary establishments.

1) It is the responsibility of the applicant, owner, permit holder or person in charge of each food establishment to renew the permit before the expiration date of the permit.
2) The renewal must include any information that has changed from that provided on the original application.

3) Any owner, permit holder or person in charge may be required to cease operations or temporarily close, if found operating without a valid permit.

C. Prior to the approval of an initial permit or the renewal of an existing permit, the Regulatory Authority shall inspect the food establishment to determine compliance with these regulations. A permit cannot be issued or renewed if the food establishment has critical violations, imminent health hazards, or previously identified violations not corrected. A permit will not be issued, renewed or reissued if required permit fees have not been paid or if any late or delinquency fees have not been paid.

D. Before issuing a permit, the Regulatory Authority may require an applicant to provide plans of the food establishment prior to construction, extensive remodeling or conversion of an existing structure. The plans must indicate the proposed layout, equipment arrangement, mechanical plans, construction of materials of work areas, and the type and model of proposed fixed equipment and facilities.

E. The Regulatory Authority may charge and collect a fee for permits and permit renewals in accordance with the approved fee schedule.

1) Failure to submit an application with the required fee for a temporary food establishment at least five working days prior to the event or celebration will result in the assessment of a late fee double the amount of the normal fee amount.

F. A food establishment, except for a temporary food establishment, is not required to obtain more than one permit for each location. Food establishments operating at one location with different management, ownership or franchise are required to obtain separate permits. Permits are required for each temporary establishment at each location.

G. A permit shall be for a specific food establishment at a specific location. Permits are not transferable from person to person. Permits are not transferable from location to location, except for mobile and roadside food establishments.

H. If an application for a permit is denied, the denial may be appealed in the same manner as the revocation of a permit.

Section 14. Suspension or Revocation of Permit

A. Suspension of permits. A permit may be suspended temporarily by the Regulatory Authority for failure of the permit holder or person in charge to comply with the requirements of these regulations.

1) Whenever a permit holder or person in charge has failed to comply with any notice issued under the provisions of these regulations, the permit holder or person in charge shall be notified in writing that the permit is immediately suspended upon service of the notice and the operations of the food establishment affected by the violations shall cease.

2) Whenever the Regulatory Authority finds conditions in the operation of the food establishment which in its judgment constitutes a substantial or imminent health hazard, the Regulatory Authority may issue a written notice to the permit holder or person in charge citing such conditions, specifying the corrective actions to be taken, and, if
deemed necessary, stating that the permit is suspended and that all food service
operations are to be immediately discontinued.

3) Any permit holder or person in charge to whom a suspension notice is issued shall
comply immediately therewith.

4) The holder of the suspended permit will be provided with an opportunity for a hearing if
a written request for a hearing is filed with the Regulatory Authority within five (5)
calendar days of the notice of the suspension. If a hearing is not requested as provided
herein, the permit holder shall fully comply with the suspension order until the permit is
reinstated.

B. Reinstatement of suspended permits. Any permit holder or person in charge whose permit
has been suspended, after making all corrections, may request a reinspection during normal
business hours of the Regulatory Authority for the purpose of reinstatement of the permit.

1) A reinspection fee in accordance with the approved fee schedule must be paid to the
office of the Regulatory Authority before the reinspection will be performed.

2) The Regulatory Authority will arrange a time with the permit holder or person in charge
to perform the reinspection.

3) If the permit holder or person in charge has complied with the requirements of these
regulations, the permit shall be reinstated.

C. Revocation of permits. For serious or repeated health hazards and violations of any of the
requirements of these regulations, or for interference with the Regulatory Authority in the
performance of its duties, the permit may be revoked.

1) Prior to revocation, the Regulatory Authority shall notify the permit holder in writing,
stating the reasons for which the permit is subject to revocation and advising that the
permit shall be revoked at the end of five (5) calendar days following service of such
notice unless a written request for a hearing is filed with the Regulatory Authority by the
permit holder within such five (5) calendar day period.

2) A permit may be suspended for cause pending its revocation or revocation hearing or
hearing relative thereto.

D. Appeal.

1) The initial decision and notice by an inspector to suspend or revoke a permit may be
appealed to the supervisor over the inspector by giving five (5) calendar days written
notice to that supervisor. The supervisor may either uphold, reverse, or modify the
decision of the inspector. If an appeal is not filed as provided herein, the decision of the
inspector is final and no further appeal will be considered.

2) The decision of the supervisor over the inspector may be appealed to the Director of the
Regulatory Authority by filing a written notice of appeal with the Director within five (5)
calendar days of the initial appeal decision. The Director of the Regulatory Authority
may either uphold, reverse, or modify the decision to suspend or revoke the permit. If an
appeal is not filed as provided herein, the decision of the supervisor is final and no
further appeal will be considered.

3) The decision of the Director may be appealed to the City Manager by filing notice of the
appeal with the City Manager within five (5) calendar days of the Director’s decision.
The City Manager may either uphold, reverse, or modify the decision of the Director. If
an appeal is not filed as provided herein, the decision of the Director is final and no further appeal will be considered.

4) The decision of the City Manager is final.

E. **Hearings.**

1) A hearing provided for in this section shall be conducted at a time and place designated by the party conducting the hearing. A hearing shall be conducted as soon as possible after a written request for a hearing.

2) Based upon the record and information and evidence presented during the hearing and these regulations, the party conducting the hearing shall make a finding and shall either uphold, reverse or modify the prior decision to suspend or revoke the permit.

3) Written notice of the hearing decision shall be furnished to the permit holder.

4) If the decision results in revocation of the permit, the permit holder may not apply for a new permit for one calendar year from the date of the decision at any location within the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Authority.

F. **Counting Days.** When counting the calendar day time period specified in this section, if the final day is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday for the Regulatory Authority, then the time period ends on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday for the Regulatory Authority.

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