**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**
**DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY**
**PO BOX 809**
**TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0809**
**609-633-6132**
**609-633-6330 (FAX)**

# Cooking Vendor Guidelines

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

FIRE SAFEY PERMIT:
N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a); All cooking vendors shall be required to obtain a fire safety permit issued by the NJ Division of Fire Safety. All permits shall be made available to the fire official upon inspection.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.9(c)1; 1E05/1L12 Type Permit Fee $42.00-NO CASH will be accepted-vendor shall provide a check or money order payable to the "Treasurer, State of NJ".
N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(f); The fire official upon inspection may not approve or may revoke a permit at any time, due to unabated fire code violations or unsafe conditions.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER: All cooking vendors shall supply their own fire extinguishers.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 5, F-519.2; All fire extinguishers shall comply with NFPA 10/1994. All fire extinguishers shall have a valid dated inspection tag, good of one year.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 5, F-519.2.1-5; Minimum Fire Extinguisher Rating for cooking operations.
40B:C Dry Chemical Sodium Bicarbonate (Regular) or,
40B:C Potassium Bicarbonate (Purple K)
2A:K Class K (wet Chemical-potassium acetate mixed with water) Required with deep fryer, vegetable or animal oils & fats.
Note: abc dry chemical (mono ammonium phosphate) not for cooking operations

PROPANE TANK:
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 27, F-2703.4; Propane tanks shall be secured, to prevent knocking over.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 36, F-3601.1; Propane tanks and equipment shall comply with NFPA 58/1995.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 36, F-3606.3; Propane tanks shall not be taken into buildings/tents.

Propane tanks between 4 and 40 lbs shall have an Overfill Protection Device for filling in NJ.
Propane tank shall be 6ft-10ft away from cooking appliance (6ft-10ft hose required).
Propane tanks shall be hydro tested every 12 years, and not dented or badly rusted.
Regulator shall be in good condition and the relief valve shall face away from the public areas.
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.

APPLIANCES:
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.2(a) 1, F-102.1.1-1 Dangerous conditions, all appliances shall be listed and approved (no home made appliances).

VEHICLES:
No vehicles shall be parked in cooking vender area unless approved.

STERNO WARMERS:
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.

The public shall be protected from grill tops and open flames at all times.

Only approved lighter fluid shall be used for charcoal grills.

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# BULLETIN: 2006-01

**SUBJECT:** Cooking appliances under Canopies and Tents

**REFERENCE:** UFC Section F-2002.2, N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7(a)3.v., N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g), and IFC 2003, Section 2404

**ISSUE DATE:** June 21, 2006

The Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement has become increasingly aware of problems associated with cooking under canopies and tents. Pursuant to fire prevention code's Chapter 20, N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a)20, the current code language prohibits cooking under tents or air-supported structures.

> "**F-2002.2 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 air-supported structure".

A conflict has developed with this section when the application of New Jersey State Department of Health regulations by health officials has required outdoor food preparation (cooking) and serving to be conducted underneath a structure to shield the food from airborne contaminates. For temporary activities this has involved the use of membrane structures.

This bulletin includes guidance to provide for the application of the competing regulations in a coordinated and effective manner.

A second issue has been the application of State Fire Safety Code Section N.J.A.C. 5:70-4.7(g) to cooking operations that produce grease laden vapors that occur under membrane structures. The Division of Fire Safety has determined that such actions are not authorized.

The intent of the State Fire Safety Code, (Retrofit Code), is to provide for an acceptable level of life safety in buildings or structures that were not built in compliance with the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code (UCC). Primarily, application of this subchapter is to occupancies constructed prior to the effective date of the UCC with some legislated exceptions such as dormitories for suppression purposes. The scope is intended to deal with occupancies that do not meet fire protection standards enacted on January 1, 1977 or later.

Since all membrane structures are regulated by the current standards of the NJ Uniform Construction Code and/or NJ Uniform Fire Code, the Retrofit Code provisions would not be applicable. Furthermore, if the guidance to restrict such cooking activities to canopies or UCC permitted tents as provided in this bulletin is followed by fire code officials, there will not be a dangerous accumulation of grease laden vapors.

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# Tents/Canopies Guidelines

NJ UNIFORM FIRE CODE: TENTS/CANOPIES

TENTS/CANOPIES – TYPE 1O15 FIRE SAFETY PERMIT, $42.00. An application for permit shall be completed and submitted to the NJ Division of Fire Safety. Site plan and seating diagram may be required.

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 travel distance in any one direction will require a separate permit for each. (up to 140 feet)
All tents/canopies that contain platforms and bleachers up to 11 feet in height will require a separate permit for each.
(This applies to all tents used for commercial use)

PROVIDE PROPER:
1-ILLUMINATED EXIT SIGNS (tents with side panels)
2-EMERGENCY LIGHTING
3-EXIT OPENINGS, MIN. 36 INCHES
4-AISLE WIDTH, MIN. 44 INCHES
5-FIRE RETARDANT CERTIFICATION OF TENT MATERIALS
6-FIRE RETARDANT CERTIFAICAION OF INTERIOR DECORATIONS
7-FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AT ALL EXITS
8-OCCUPANT LOAD AND NUMBER OF EXITS SHALL BE APPROVED BY THE NJ DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 20, F-2001.3; All tents shall be installed and comply with the N.J. Uniform Construction Code and maintained in accordance with NFPA 102/1995.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 20, F-2001.7; Tents shall be constructed of fire retardant materials or be properly treated as per NFPA 701/1995. Proper documentation shall be provided by the vendor upon inspection.
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 20, F-2002.1; Combustible materials and excessive trash shall not be located within any tent or air-supported structure (min. 20 feet clearance).
N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 20, F-2002.2; 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 air-supported structure.

NO cooking under tents.
NO deep fryers shall be under tents.
NO cooking with grease laden vapors under tents.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1(a) 20, F-2002.6; Fire extinguishers required in/under tents, 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.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1 (a) 3, F-309.2; Excessive grease and residue buildup on kitchen exhaust systems, cleaning required.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1 (a) 5, F-511.1; Dry chemical extinguishing systems shall be maintained and inspected semi-annually as per NFPA 17/1994.

N.J.A.C. 5:70-3.1 (a) 5, F-512.1; Wet chemical extinguishing systems shall be maintained and inspected semi-annually as per NFPA 17A/1994.

NJ UCC TENT PERMIT REQUIRED:
LARGER THAN 16800 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE, GREATER THAN 140 FEET OF TRAVEL DISTANCE IN ANY ONE DIRECTION, BLEACHERS HIGHER THAN 11 FEET, TENTS UP FOR MORE THAN 180 DAYS

# Cooking Tent/Canopy FLOORPLAN

Name: _____

Location: _____

Tent-Canopy Size: _____

Indicate location of cooking appliances and any fuel sources or supplies

Signed: _____ Date: _____