

Special Event FAQ's

1. **What if a vendor has a Retail Food Establishment license from a permanent location, is this license ok?**
 - a. No. The license they hold is only valid for the location indicated on their license. To operate at a separate location, an additional license is required.
2. **What if the vendor has a Special Event Retail Food Establishment License or Mobile License from another county?**
 - a. Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) does not accept Special Event Retail Food Establishment licenses from other counties. TCHD accepts Mobile Licenses issued in the state of Colorado, except for the City and County of Denver.
3. **What is the difference between a Mobile licensed vendor and a Special Event Licensed Vendor?**
 - a. While both must report to an approved commissary, the Special Event Retail Food licensed vendor may operate only at Special Events, and have far less stringent equipment requirements.
 - b. A Mobile Retail Food Establishment licensed vendor is associated with a specific mobile truck, trailer, or pushcart, and may operate at any event, any location, and at any time, within the travel time and/or distance constraints of their commissary.
4. **What kind of vendors are exempt?**
 - a. Vendors that are only providing 2 fl. oz. or less samples or vendors that are operating as non-profit would be considered exempt and would not need a Special Event RFE license to operate. Please contact Tri-County Health Department with any questions as to what may be considered exempt.
5. **How much does a Special Event Retail Food Establishment License cost?**
 - a. See web site or contact inspector for current rates.
6. **Can the vendors prepare food onsite?**
 - a. No. Only final assembly of products can take place onsite (such as placing a hot dog or hamburger on a bun). All food items must be prepared at a commissary. This includes washing, chopping, peeling, dicing, shredding, and mixing activities. All poultry and ground beef are required to be precooked. Chicken and turkey may be purchased precooked. Hamburger patties may be pre-formed and frozen.
7. **What does a Special Event Retail Food Establishment License, Mobile Food License and Sales Tax License look like?**
 - a. The Special Event Retail Food Establishment License and Mobile Food License may vary for each county but each will be a light pink color and will be issued by the Department of Public Health and Environment. The Sales Tax License will be blue in color and will be issued by the Department of Revenue.

