



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Outdoor Grilling Guidance

WHAT DOES THE "ACT ALLOWING FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO USE OUTDOOR GRILLS FOR FOOD PREPARATION" ALLOW?

N.C.G.S. 130-248 allows a permitted restaurant to prepare food for customers on an outdoor grill for sale or sample if all the following criteria are met:

- 1) The outdoor grill is located on the premises of the food establishment and is continuously supervised by a food employee when the grill is in use. When the grill is in use, it is the responsibility of the person in charge to prevent unauthorized access to food, equipment, and utensils. Lighting is required for nighttime operation.
- 2) The outdoor grill has a cooking surface made of stainless steel or cast iron, meets sanitation requirements for equipment in a food establishment, and is stationed on a concrete or asphalt foundation.
- 3) The outdoor grill is not operated within 10 feet of combustible construction.
- 4) All open food and utensils are provided with overhead protection or otherwise equipped with individual covers, such as domes, chafing lids, or cookers with hinged lids.
- 5) The outdoor grill is located in an enclosed area and protected from environmental contamination when not in operation.
- 6) The outdoor grill and concrete or asphalt foundation are cleaned daily on any day that the grill is in operation.
- 7) Raw meat, poultry, and fish are prepared in a pre-portioned or ready-to-cook form inside the food establishment and may only be handled indirectly with utensils when using the outdoor grill. Food prepared on the outdoor grill is processed inside the food establishment.

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING PRIOR APPROVAL

- Prepare a written Standard Operating Procedure detailing how all criteria above will be met, including manufacturer specifications for the grill and menu of items to be cooked.
- Call our office at 980-314-1620 to request an infield plan review for outdoor grilling approval. A fee of \$250 is required for all requests.
- Outdoor Grilling is not allowed until an Environmental Health Specialist can visit the facility to confirm compliance of all criteria and approval is noted on permit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional criteria may be required by other Mecklenburg County agencies, for details please contact the Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement, Code Resource Center at 980-314-2633 (or 980-314-CODE) for details.