

# CHARLOTTEFOODTRUCKS.ORG

So you think you'd like to own a food truck in Charlotte, North Carolina? Here are some things to consider before you invest your time and money. Hopefully the information on this sheet will be a good starting point, but we suggest you also speak to food truck operators to get a feel for the business--but not when there's a line outside their windows, please!

The information presented below is subject to change.

## *What official paperwork will you need?*

\*A Business Permit

<http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/TaxCollections/BusinessTaxes/Pages/PrivilegeLicense.aspx>

\*Inspection by the Health Department

<http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/HealthDepartment/EnvironmentalHealth/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/Pages/Questions%20About%20Pushcarts%20and%20Mobile%20Food%20Units.aspx>

\*Vehicle Insurance

\*General Liability Insurance

Many locations and most of the area's food truck rally organizers are now requiring Certificates of Insurance be written naming their facility as Additional Insured. If you're shopping for insurance, it will be extremely beneficial to find an insurance policy that will allow you to write **unlimited FREE COIs with Additional Insureds** as part of your policy. If your plan does not include unlimited free COIs with AIs, you should definitely find out how much they cost before you sign on the dotted line, as they can add up quickly. For instance, to attend Food Truck Friday in Harrisburg requires three COIs with AIs, one for the event organizer (myself), and one for the location owner, and one for the town. This is not a place to save money; although your annual policy may cost more with this provision, in the long run, it will most likely cost less than all the COIs with AIs you'll have to buy throughout the year.

## *What else?*

\*You will need a commissary or a brick-and-mortar restaurant to act as a commissary. You will need to visit this commissary at least once a day. Sometimes a local restaurant or a church's kitchen can act as a commissary.

\*In Charlotte, each truck finds their own locations to work. Be aware that finding a profitable parking area is not easy. Food trucks are not allowed to park on the streets of Uptown Charlotte, not even at meters. Any arrangements to park in privately-owned parking lots are up to each trucker to negotiate on their own.

\*Food Truck Rallies are becoming more numerous in Charlotte. Each Rally is organized individually, and no Rally will allow you to simply drive up and park without being officially scheduled.