

Food Trailer Permit Checklist – Western Cape & Cape Town

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Before you trade, use this checklist as a starting point.

Legal and Business Requirements

- Register your business or operate as a sole proprietor where appropriate.
- Apply for a business licence if your food business requires one.
- Apply for an informal trading permit or hawker permit if trading on public land or in a municipal trading area.
- Register for an income tax number.
- Check VAT registration requirements with SARS. From 1 April 2026, compulsory VAT registration applies above R2.3 million in taxable supplies over a consecutive 12-month period.
- Confirm whether the trading location needs additional approval from a market, event organiser, landlord or municipality.

Health and Safety

- Apply for your Certificate of Acceptability through your local Environmental Health office if required.
- Confirm food safety training requirements for the person in charge and food handlers.
- Ensure the trailer has suitable hand-wash and utensil-wash facilities.
- Ensure the trailer has suitable water supply and wastewater handling.
- Use food-safe internal surfaces and finishes.
- Maintain a cleaning, pest control and waste management plan.
- Keep suitable fire safety equipment on board where required.
- Gas compliance certificate where applicable. Handled by Crafted Trailers SA as part of the trailer build.
- Electrical compliance certificate where applicable. Handled by Crafted Trailers SA as part of the trailer build.
- Ensure good lighting and ventilation inside the trailer.

Trailer and Road Compliance

- Trailer road registration. Handled by Crafted Trailers SA for the trailer itself.
- Trailer licensing and licence disc. Handled by Crafted Trailers SA for the trailer itself.
- Roadworthy trailer build. Handled by Crafted Trailers SA for the trailer itself.
- VIN or trailer identification documentation. Handled by Crafted Trailers SA where applicable.
- Lights, reflectors, tow hitch and braking requirements checked as part of the trailer build.
- Keep trailer insurance and public liability insurance up to date where applicable.

Trading and Operations

- Display your COA and trading permits where required.
- Comply with permit rules, trading hours and approved trading conditions.
- Display a clear menu and pricing.
- Keep your branding and wrap professional.
- Keep copies of your certificates and approvals available.
- Maintain regular cleaning and maintenance routines.
- Build good relationships with inspectors, event organisers and trading location managers.

This checklist is a guide only. Final requirements must always be confirmed with the relevant authority or trading location.\

Disclaimer: This checklist is provided for general informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, regulations and permit requirements may change without notice. Crafted Trailers SA assumes no liability for actions taken based on this document. Always confirm details with your local municipality or the City of Cape Town before proceeding.