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July 22, 2013

Dear Film Production Food Service Operator:

**RE: INTRODUCTION OF THE MOTION PICTURE CATERING OPERATION PERMIT**

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health (EH) recognizes that mobile food facility (MFF) operators who provide food service to motion picture and television film locations face challenges in providing meal service to a large number of employees during the limited time available for a meal break. EH began meeting routinely with the industry to listen to their needs and concerns and to identify sensible means to permit and inspect this food industry.

To assist in meeting these challenges, EH has revised standards for motion picture catering operations and developed a Motion Picture Catering Operation (MPCO) Permit. Each permit allows a motion picture catering operation to operate one mobile food facility, no more than two mobile storage vehicles (MSV), and outdoor food preparation and service areas. It is important to note that there are very specific requirements and timelines to transition from your existing MFF Permit to the new MPCO Permit, if you so choose.

**Motion Picture Catering Operation (MPCO) Permit**

The MPCO Permit consists of a mobile food facility, no more than two mobile storage vehicles, and outdoor food preparation and service areas, where the operator is under contract to operate at a licensed film studio or at a site with a permit for filming on location issued by the appropriate city or county. A Motion Picture Catering Operation will receive two (2) field inspections per year (including all 3 food operations mentioned above). In addition, the MFF will receive one certification inspection conducted at the MFF commissary. For additional information see Attachment I, "Permit and Operational Requirements for Motion Picture Catering Operations."

**MPCO Permit - Mobile Food Facility**

Only one mobile food facility can be used with each MPCO Permit. The mobile food facility must meet all requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (California Retail Food Code Chapter 10 and applicable requirements in Chapters 1-8, inclusive, and Chapter 13), with the exception that the Motion Picture Catering Operation includes two mobile storage vehicles, and outdoor

food preparation and service areas. For additional information see Attachment I, "Permit and Operational Requirements for Motion Picture Catering Operations."

Mobile food facilities **NOT** operating with a MPCO Permit are limited to preparing and serving food from the MFF. No additional food preparation areas or storage vehicles are permitted.

### **MPCO Permit - Mobile Storage Vehicle**

A Mobile Storage Vehicle (MSV) is a vehicle with a fully enclosed cargo area used to transport and store food and food equipment for use by a Motion Picture Catering Operation (MPCO) at a site with a permit for filming on location issued by the appropriate city or county or at a licensed film studio. A MSV must meet the general requirements as stated in Attachment II, "General Requirements Checklist for Mobile Storage Vehicles."

### **MPCO Permit – Outdoor Food Preparation and Service Areas**

Food preparation (except approved outdoor cooking equipment) must be within a fully enclosed structure consisting of a solid top/canopy, four walls extending from floor to ceiling, and a floor. Employee/customer service areas containing buffets or self-service stations must be provided with a solid top/canopy extending over the entire area. Additional requirements for outdoor food preparation and service areas can be found in Attachment I, "Permit and Operational Requirements for Motion Picture Catering Operations."

### **Applying for a Motion Picture Catering Operation Permit**

To apply for the MPCO Permit, an operator must:

- Complete a Public Health Permit Application available through the Food & Milk Program.
- Complete an "Agreement in Conjunction with a Motion Picture Catering Operation Permit" form, Attachment III.
- Provide a letter of agreement with an approved commissary for servicing and storage of the MFF associated with the MPCO.
- Make an appointment with the Food and Milk Program to have all MSVs evaluated that may be used in conjunction with the MPCO.

Again, it is important to note that there are very specific requirements and timelines to transition from your existing MFF Permit to the new MPCO Permit. For further information, please contact the Food and Milk Program at (626) 430-5400, or the Motion Picture and Television Mobile Catering Association at (213) 624-1550. Information can also be found on the EH website at [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh).

Very Truly Yours,



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TW: pj

Attachments