

ARKANSAS PLUMBING & NATURAL GAS DIVISION

MOBILE FOOD UNIT POLICY

Mobile Food Units are intended to provide food services to the public with a mobile-type unit, similar to many recreational vehicles. These units are designed and approved for self-sustained operation through the utilization of water and wastewater storage tanks, independent of water and sewer service connections. By design, they are non-compliant with the Arkansas State Plumbing Code and therefore prohibited from permanent connections to water or sewer plumbing systems. Connecting to a potable water system, even briefly, is a cross-connection and a potential public health hazard, unless the water source is equipped with an approved backflow protection assembly or device. These requirements are based on the Arkansas State Plumbing Code, ADH Rules Pertaining to Public Water Systems and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This policy outlines the minimum requirement for sites where a mobile food unit intends to remain parked and operate, while refilling the water tanks and/or dumping wastewater holding tanks, utilizing the parking site's plumbing systems. Local jurisdiction requirements may be more stringent. All plumbing will be subject to state review, local permitting and inspections.

Potable Water Supply to Refill Storage Tanks

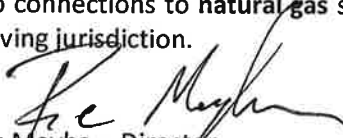
All potable water source outlets that are to be utilized for the filling of the freshwater tank of the mobile food units shall be equipped with approved backflow prevention devices or assemblies to isolate the potable water source from the unit's water holding tank. **Atmospheric Vacuum Breakers (AVB) are insufficient** when the water connection is continuously maintained to the unit. A **Reduced Pressure Zone Assembly (RPZA)** is the only acceptable isolation method where a continuous connection to the water system is maintained and a potential for backpressure exists. Where the potential for backpressure has been eliminated and/or there is assurance that the hose will be disconnected from the unit after each tank filling, a waiver may be granted to permit the use of a dual check valve, compliant with ASSE 1024 and NSF/ANSI 61, attached to the hose bibb, in lieu of an RPZA.

Waste Tank Dumping Station.

Plumbing code compliant sanitary waste receptors for mobile units shall be a minimum four-inch sewer riser pipe connected to the approved sewerage disposal system of the site. The waste receptor shall be surrounded at the inlet end by a concrete apron, or similar, sloped to the drain and provided with a suitable weatherproof, hinged self-closing cover that remains closed between uses. Grease laden waste shall not discharge into a sanitary waste system prior to an interceptor that meets state and local approval. The unit's waste tank connection shall not remain affixed to waste receptor.

This policy applies to any mobile structure containing plumbing that is not compliant with the Arkansas State Plumbing Code that intends to connect to a potable water system or sanitary sewer system.

No connections to natural gas shall be permitted without written authorization from the code officials having jurisdiction.



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