



Franklin County Public Health
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Micro-Markets

Food Safety Program

What is a Micro Market?

Defined in 2014 Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code:

“Micro market” means a retail food establishment that offers for sale food items that are allowable in a risk level one operation in displays not more than two hundred and fifty linear feet. All commercially prepackaged refrigerated or frozen, time/temperature controlled for safety (TCS) foods shall be stored in equipment that complies with paragraph (H) of rule 3717-1-03.4, paragraphs (LL) and (MM) of rule 3717-1-04.1 of the Administrative Code.”

What might a Micro Market look like?

Micro Markets are typically unattended stores in locations (office buildings, etc.) that offer fresh pre-packaged foods, snacks and beverages for sale via a self-checkout kiosk.

Does a Micro Market inside of a cafeteria need to have a separate license?

Yes. The micro market must have its own license.

Do vending machines inside of a micro market need to be licensed?

No. Vending machines do not need to be licensed if they are under the control of the operator of the micro market.

What equipment is required?

All equipment must be commercial grade and approved by a recognized testing agency. The coolers and freezers that offer TCS foods must have automatic shutoff health switches to prevent the sale of food in the event of a temperature control issue or power failure.

The following equipment has been approved for use in micro markets:

- Royal Vendors – Model RVCH-027
- Royal Vendors – Model RVCFH-027
- Mimet – Model VV-16 BTFN Freezer
- Imbera – Model G319
- Imbera – Model VFS24

Can coffee be sold inside the micro market?

Yes. Coffee can be sold from coffee/cappuccino/hot chocolate machines that mix non-TCS ingredients with hot water to dispense a single cup of product. These machines must be commercial grade and approved by a recognized testing agency.

Can a micro market have a microwave oven?

Yes. Microwave ovens are allowed inside the micro market.

Are whole fruits allowed to be sold inside the micro market?

Yes. Whole fruits are permitted to be sold inside the micro market. The skin or outer surface of the fruit must be intact. If the skin of the fruit will be eaten, the fruit must be packaged or wrapped. For example, an apple would need a protective cover or wrap. Fruit such as a banana or orange that will be peeled prior to being consumed won't need a protective cover.

How much are the plan review and license fees for a micro market?

The plan review fee is \$300.00 per micro market. The completed plans must be submitted along with a plan review application. Once all of the required materials are received, the plans will be reviewed within 30 days. You will be notified when the plan review is complete. **The license fee is \$175.00. This fee can be paid prior to, or at the time of the final inspection.**

Is the micro market required to have a person-in-charge?

No. The micro market is exempt from the person-in-charge requirement. Rule 3717-1-02.4 (a) of the Ohio Administrative Code applies to person-in-charge requirements.

If you have any questions regarding micro markets, please contact the Food Safety Program at (614) 525-3160 or email food@franklincountyohio.gov.