

Cross-State Operations Guide

Operating Your Food Truck in Both Kentucky and Ohio

NO RECIPROCITY: Your KY MFU permit is NOT valid in Ohio. Your Ohio MFSO is NOT valid in Kentucky. You need BOTH licenses to operate both sides of the river.

COMPARISON: KENTUCKY vs OHIO

Factor	Kentucky	Ohio
License Name	Mobile Food Unit (MFU)	Mobile Food Service Op. (MFSO)
Issuing Agency	NKY Health (859-341-4151)	Cincinnati Health Dept.
Annual Fee	~\$150	\$359-\$402
Expiry Date	December 31	March 1
Statewide?	Yes (KY only)	Yes - all 88 OH counties
New County Notice	48-hr advance notice	None required (SB 150)
Cross-State Valid?	NO - KY only	NO - OH only

COMBINED ANNUAL COST ESTIMATE

KY MFU permit (NKY Health)	~\$150/yr	Covers Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Grant
KY plan review fee (new truck, one-time)	\$150	One-time for new trucks
Ohio MFSO (Cincinnati Health Dept.)	\$359-\$402/yr	Covers all 88 Ohio counties
Ohio LLC + Transient Vendor License	\$124 one-time	
ONGOING ANNUAL TOTAL (BOTH STATES)	~\$509-\$552/yr	

STEP-BY-STEP TO GET BOTH LICENSES

- 1 Apply to NKY Health for KY MFU permit first**
Faster and cheaper. Call (859) 341-4151. Secure commissary first.
- 2 Apply to Cincinnati Health Dept. for Ohio MFSO simultaneously**
Mail application + floor plan + fee to: 3845 William P Dooley Bypass, Cincinnati OH 45223
- 3 Keep both licenses posted in truck**
Show KY permit in Kentucky, Ohio license in Ohio.
- 4 Track both renewal deadlines**
KY: renew before Dec 31. Ohio: renew before March 1.
- 5 Renew commissary agreements annually**
Both states require current commissary agreement at renewal.