



Policy Statement

Exemption from Permitting Low-Risk Food Items

Policy:

In addition to AMC 16.60.060(C) the Anchorage Health Department (AHD). will not require permits for vendors offering only the following food items:

- Shaved ice with flavored syrup (without the use of dairy or potentially hazardous toppings)
- Shelf-stable jerky
- Fried pork rinds made from rendered pork skin pellets
- Rope licorice and other non-TCS candies
- Similar non-TCS food products do not require temperature control for safety and will not support growth of foodborne pathogens.

AHD finds that these food items are considered low-risk and do not require time/temperature control for safety or support the rapid growth of foodborne pathogens.

Justification

This policy eliminates unnecessary plan reviews and permitting for businesses producing these foods, while allowing the Department to focus inspections and oversight on higher-risk operations without reducing public health protections.

While our current code lists examples of exempted foods (such as lemonade, popcorn, and cotton candy), the foods covered by this policy share the same low-risk food safety characteristics as the items identified in code and in this policy.

Complications and Unknowns:

AHD may require documentation of shelf-stability and/or source when it is unclear whether a product is non-TCS (e.g., jerky or “similar non-TCS” products).

Contamination control is essential; Vendors must take proactive action to protect food from contamination (covered containers, protected display) and prevent bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat foods (use tongs/scoops/deli tissue/gloves).

References:

Section 1-201.10 of the 2013 FDA Food Code defines TCS foods and guides our classification of these product
Anchorage Municipal Code 16.60.060(C)(4)