

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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MOBILE MEAT VENDOR REQUIREMENTS

Retail sales of meat are regulated under the Administrative Rules of Montana for Food Service Establishments, Title 37, Chapter 110, Subchapter 2. The local health department is responsible for licensing and inspecting retail meat markets.

Wholesale of meat products is regulated by the Department of Livestock, P.O. Box 202001, Helena, MT 59620-2001. They can be contacted at 406-444-5202 for further information. A combination of wholesale and retail will involve both agencies.

1. All animals intended for retail sale to consumers must be slaughtered at a USDA inspected plant. Federal or State inspected plants are approved.
2. Processing and packaging must be done in an approved facility.
3. Packaged meat products must have labels approved by Howard Reid, Food & Consumer Safety Section, Helena. (406) 444-5306. General label requirements will include:
 - a. Name of product (ex: Round steak)
 - b. Ingredient list (if more than just the name of product)
 - c. Name and location of producer
 - d. USDA stamp or seal with plant #
 - e. Safe Food Handling instructions -Net weight
4. Storage of packaged meats must be at an approved facility. Home freezers cannot be licensed.
5. For transporting frozen meat to sales locations, a mechanical freezer with a selfcontained, on-board power source is required to maintain frozen temperatures.
6. Packaged meat must remain packaged. No cooking or sampling is allowed without adequate facilities (see mobile food unit requirements).
7. Sales locations must have a restroom with handwashing facilities available to the vendor within a reasonable distance.
8. A retail food establishment application and a written proposal that includes the above information must be submitted to the health department for review prior to license approval. Once approved, a license will be issued as a "Mobile Meat Market" (F3,F7). The cost of the license is \$60.00 and is renewed at the beginning of each calendar year.
9. A Custom Exempt sale to consumers is regulated by the Department of Livestock and is not considered a retail sale if the transaction ends with a bill of sale that accompanies the live animal brought in for slaughter. The purchaser makes the arrangements for processing and packaging, and picks up their own order. If the seller provides delivery service of the packaged meats to the customer, it is no longer a true Custom Exempt transaction. They would be considered a "Mobile Meat Market" at this point and would need to meet numbers 4 through 7 of the above requirements. The delivered orders must go to the original buyers of the animal and are not intended for sale.