



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA)
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September 29, 1997

Reviewed: November 6, 2007

Arthur W. Bloom, Food Program Coordinator
Environmental Services and Consultation Section
Department of Human Services, Health Division
800 N.E. Oregon Street #21
Portland, Oregon 97232-2162

Dear Mr. Bloom:

Thank you for your September 15, 1997 letter inquiring whether mobile food units, which operate deep-fryers while in motion, violate any OR-OSHA standards. Without more information it's impossible to say whether there are violations or not. From your description, though, it certainly sounds like workers may be exposed to hazards and that these units should be looked at by OR-OSHA.

OAR 437-002-2225(2)(d) requires that you secure all material, equipment or tools to prevent movement or a barrier must be in place to protect the occupants from moving items. Since hot oil is a material, and it does create a potential for injury, this is one standard that may apply to the mobile food units discussed in your letter.

Near the end of your letter you state that your agency is referring this issue, and that these units meet your agency's requirements for food safety. As explained by Mike Mitchell during your telephone conversation on September 29th, before OR-OSHA can positively say that the operation of deep-fryers in food units, which are moving, is hazardous to workers, someone from our agency needs to view the units and investigate how they're operated. If upon receipt of this response letter you decide to make an interagency referral to OR-OSHA, you should telephone OR-OSHA's Portland Field Office, 503-229-5910, and report the situation to safety enforcement.

If we can be of further assistance please contact OR-OSHA's Technical Section at 378-3272. You are also invited to see the OR-OSHA pages on the Internet at www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/index.html.

Sincerely,

Marilyn K. Schuster, Manager
Standards & Technical Resources Section
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division