

Electrical Inspection Procedures for Mobile Food Units

Mobile food units also include concession trailers, concession stands or similar units Frequently Asked Questions

What is the responsibility of the Department of Labor & Industry?

The Department has the responsibility for inspection of all electrical wiring and equipment for transient events such as carnivals, circuses, inflatable amusements, festivals, film and TV production sites and road construction projects. Large portable generators and power distribution must be inspected at each setup. Each ride, concession, mobile food unit or similar unit must be inspected at or before its initial operation each year. Equipment must be in compliance before it is energized and put into use.

1. Is inspection of equipment necessary before the unit can be energized or used?

In the interest of public safety, electrical equipment and wiring must not be energized until it has been inspected and approved.

2. Does the Department of Labor & Industry perform electrical inspections in all areas of the state?

The Department is the electrical inspection authority statewide, except for certain cities that have made provisions for electrical inspections within their jurisdiction. A list of all electrical inspectors and contact information is available at the Department's website <http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-inspector-directories>

3. How do I request an electrical inspection?

The request for electrical inspection form is provided by the electrical inspector. The request for inspection form is completed and the appropriate inspection fee is collected at the time of the inspection. Fees must be paid in cash or check; sorry, no credit cards.

4. Do I need an inspection every year?

Yes. An initial inspection is required at or before the first setup each year. The electrical inspection is valid for the entire calendar year. However, at any time, electrical inspection authorities reserve the right to require corrections of identified or observed hazardous or damaged electrical wiring and equipment, to issue written inspection reports, and to reinspect the electrical wiring and equipment. Reinspection fees may be applicable if warranted.

5. Can the electrical inspection be requested and made before the first appearance of the year?

Yes, inspections of concession trailers, mobile food units or similar units can be arranged in advance any time of year by contacting the Department. Inspections can be performed at any mutually agreeable time and location.

6. What if the initial electrical inspection identifies code violations?

Identified code violations are documented on an inspection report form and a copy is provided to the user of the equipment. Equipment must be in compliance and reinspected before it is energized and put into use.

7. Are there restrictions about who can perform electrical work?

Yes. In the interest of public safety, electrical work is strictly regulated in Minnesota. All on-site electrical wiring including installation, repair and correction of code violations must be performed by Minnesota-licensed electrical contractors and their licensed or registered employees. Equipment owners are not allowed to perform any electrical wiring once the equipment is on-site. Persons other than licensed employees of electrical contractors are strictly limited to plugging and unplugging portable electrical equipment, fitted with a proper flexible cord and attachment plug, into receptacle outlet of the proper power rating.

8. How is the equipment marked to indicate that it has passed inspection?

When equipment is in compliance, an inspection sticker is placed on the equipment with the date of the inspection and the inspection number. This sticker also has an identification number that is specific to each mobile food unit. The owner’s copy of the inspection form is another record of compliance, which should be kept with the equipment for the remainder of the year.

9. How much does an electrical inspection cost?

Inspection fees are very reasonable and economical. The standard inspection fee for each mobile food unit, concession, attraction or similar unit is:

Up to and including 60 amperes	\$35
Over 60 amperes	\$40

Inspection fees must be paid by check or cash

Credit cards are not accepted

In addition to the above fees, inspections made on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, or after regular business hours may be charged at the \$80 hourly rate with a one-hour minimum charge. If reinspection of corrections is necessary, there may be a \$35 charge for each reinspection. If mutually agreeable between the electrical inspector and the equipment owner, the \$80 hourly rate can be used as a favorable alternative where multiple units at one location can all be inspected at the same time. This alternative option might be more cost effective to use when compared to the individual unit rate of \$35.

Electrical Wiring

Installations of electrical wiring and equipment must meet the provisions of the most recently adopted edition of the National Electrical Code. All documented code violations must be corrected by properly licensed persons and inspected for compliance.

CAUTION: THIS INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE YOUR ONLY ELECTRICAL INFORMATION RESOURCE. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE ARE NECESSARY FOR AN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION THAT COMPLIES WITH THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC) AND IS FREE FROM FIRE AND ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARDS.

Link to the current directory of state and local electrical inspectors, and electrical area representatives:

<http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-inspector-directories>

Link to the Laws and Rules Regulating Licensing of Electricians and Inspection of Electrical Installations:

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=326B&format=pdf>

Examples of temporary portable electrical distribution equipment

NEC 525.23(D) GFCI Protection for Receptacles Supplied by Portable Cords

Is listed open neutral protection required?

Feeder Cord NO

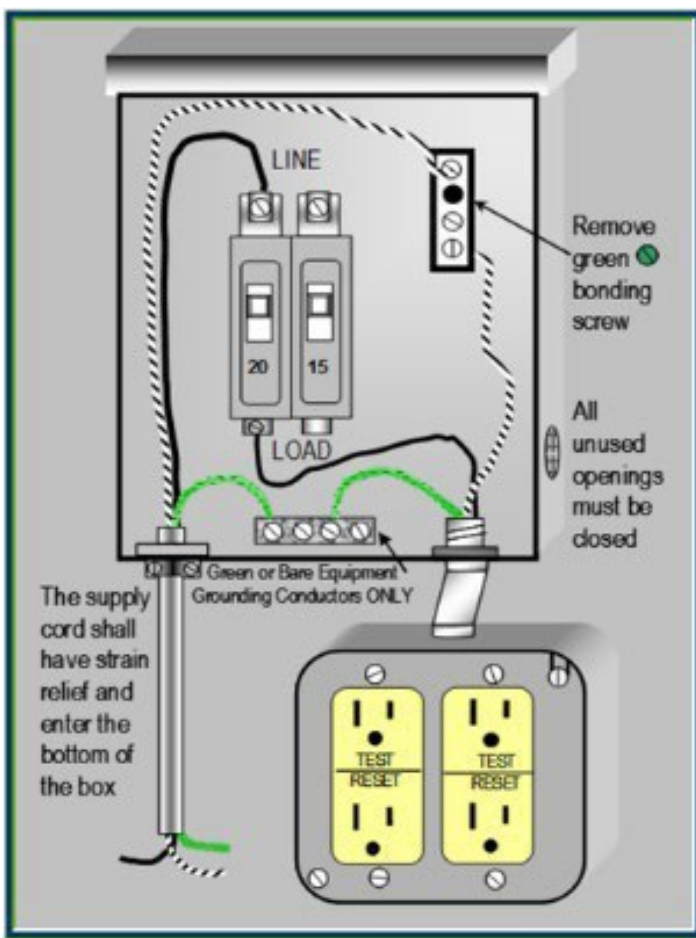
Branch Circuit Cord Yes

Feeder Cord NO

Permanent Branch Circuit Wiring NO

GFCI receptacles in do-it-yourself quad-box not allowed

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY



National Electrical Code Article

Disconnecting Means

Every concession, game, or similar attraction or unit must have an enclosed fusible disconnect switch or circuit breaker in or adjacent to each exhibitor's space which will disconnect all power

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Disconnecting Means

- Must be readily accessible, within sight of, and within 6 feet of the operator's station
- Fuse-holders with switches mounted on box covers and switch controlled multi-outlet strips are **NOT ACCEPTABLE**
- Enclosures for disconnects installed outdoors must be rainproof, unless otherwise protected from the weather

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