

Grayson County Updates Retail Food Establishment Permits and Fees to Align with New State Law

Grayson County Commissioner's Court approved a series of Environmental Health permit and fee changes on August 26, 2025, in response to Senate Bill 1008 (SB 1008), which was signed into law on May 19, 2025. SB 1008 standardizes food service permitting and fee structures across the state. The legislation places caps on local permitting fees and mandates alignment with Department of State Health Services (DSHS) regulations.

To comply with these requirements, the Grayson County Health Department will implement the following changes on Sep. 1, 2025:

Permit and Fee Structure Updates:

- Daycare and School Retail Food Establishment permits will be discontinued. Establishments requiring general sanitation inspections per their state licensing agency, must now request the inspection separately from the Grayson County Health Department.
- All Retail Food Establishments (with the exception of mobile food units) will be transitioned to a risk-based permit fee structure. The inspection frequency will be based upon the risk category assigned to the establishment by the Grayson County Health Department.

Risk-Based Definitions:

Low Risk (1): Includes food establishments that only sell pre-packaged time/temperature control for safety (TCS) foods. Examples include some convenience stores, and establishments with prepackaged ice cream. These food establishments will require one compliance inspection per year.

Medium Risk (2): Includes food establishments that serve TCS foods that require minimal handling or preparation and are served in individual portions. This includes a food establishment that has simple cooking processes, a limited menu, and most products are prepared/cooked and served immediately. Examples include convenience stores that package ice, and/or have hot dog rollers, cut fruit, and ice cream shops/snow cone stands with a limited menu. These food establishments will require two compliance inspections per year.

High Risk (3): Includes food establishments that serve large volumes of TCS foods, especially TCS foods that require extensive amounts of handling, or TCS foods that are prepared in bulk. This includes food establishments that serve highly susceptible populations, and any food establishment that conducts specialized processes. Examples include full-service restaurants, preschools, hospitals, and food establishments with specialized processes such as, reduced oxygen packaging, or time/temperature control for safety foods, etc. These food establishments will require two compliance inspections per year.

New Standardized Permit Fees (Effective September 1, 2025):

- Mobile Food Unit: \$250
- Daycare and School Inspection: \$150 per inspection
- Initial Inspection: \$200
- Late fee: \$100
- Re-inspection fee: \$200
- Retail Food Establishments: (with the exception of mobile food units) Based on Risk
 - \$250 for Low Risk
 - \$400 for Medium Risk
 - \$550 for High Risk
 - \$773 for Multiple Department Establishments (i.e. deli, meat market, bakery, etc.)

These changes aim to promote uniformity and regulatory consistency across Texas, simplify the permitting process, ensure fees reflect the true cost of service, and improve the efficiency of food safety oversight through risk-based inspections.

For questions or additional information, please contact the Grayson County Health Department – Environmental Health Division at (903) 893-0131 x 1322.