

Business License Research Report

Research date: September 23, 2026 | Last verified: September 23, 2026

Sources: Official government and regulatory sources

Research scope: Federal / State / County / City screened

No secondary-source claim is treated as authoritative without primary-source confirmation.

Business Profile

Field	Sample business details
Business name	Example Taco Counter
Exact operating address	301 W 2nd St, Austin, TX 78701 (hypothetical leased suite; suite and current CO not supplied)
Activity	Prepare and sell breakfast tacos, coffee, and non-alcoholic canned drinks for takeout and limited on-site seating
Scenario	New business / new location
Operating model	Physical storefront
Customers visit	Yes
Tangible goods	Yes
Food or beverages	Yes
Alcohol	No
Construction / contractor work	No construction disclosed
Regulated service / hazardous inventory	No
Employees	Yes
DBA / trade name	Not confirmed
Special feature	Limited seating; no drive-through or outdoor seating disclosed

Executive summary

Overall status: Required / Conditional. Three immediate compliance layers were identified: Texas sales-tax registration, Austin food-enterprise approval, and food-personnel credentials. The food permit cannot be treated as a simple form-only step: the City describes a pre-opening inspection before operation, and the exact property's current certificate of occupancy (CO), legal use, and any construction/change-of-use facts must be confirmed first.

Requirements found: 4 required items; 1 location-dependent item.

High-priority blockers: Do not commit to a food-service opening date before confirming the suite/CO and the food-permit path. A new build or remodel has a different plan-review path from an existing compliant food location.

Unresolved items: suite number; current CO and approved use; whether the space was previously a food establishment; leasehold improvements; entity/DBA; annual sales and final employee count; outdoor seating/signage; whether any alcohol service is later added.

Requirement table

Requirement name	Level / authority	Type	Applicability and trigger	Status / confidence	Application / fee / renewal	Official evidence
Texas Sales and Use Tax Permit	State - Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts	Tax registration	The stated business sells prepared food and beverages as a Texas seller. A seller engaged in business in Texas that sells tangible personal property or taxable services must obtain the permit.	Required / High	Online registration or Form AP-201; no application fee located; filing/collection obligations are outside this report.	Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Comptroller AP-220 instructions Verified Sep. 23, 2026 Official government source permit application guidance Verified Sep. 23, 2026
Food Enterprise Operating Permit	City - Austin Public Health	Health / food operating permit	A fixed restaurant is a food enterprise. Austin says it is required to legally operate and issued after the pre-opening inspection passes.	Required / High	Apply through My Health Department, mail, or in person. Current city fee is stated by annual-sales tier: \$309 / \$618 / \$927. Renew annually.	Austin Public Health Fixed Food Establishments Verified Sep. 23, 2026
Pre-opening inspection; plan review if construction/remodel applies	City - Austin Public Health / Development Services	Health / building gate	Every new food establishment needs a pre-opening inspection; City guidance says plan review is required for new construction or remodels.	Required for the new establishment; plan review conditional / High	Pre-opening inspection: \$178 for City of Austin & ILA per current page. New-construction/remodel plan-review fees vary by scope and size.	Austin Public Health Fixed Food Establishments Verified Sep. 23, 2026
Certified Food Manager and food-handler training	City - Austin Public Health	Personnel / food safety	At least one employee must have a Food Manager Certification; staff who prepare or handle food must complete accredited Food Handler training.	Required / High	Training/exam provider details vary. Keep training records at the establishment. The page does not state an Austin registration fee.	Austin Public Health Food Personnel Requirements Verified Sep. 23, 2026

Requirement name	Level / authority	Type	Applicability and trigger	Status / confidence	Application / fee / renewal	Official evidence
Current/use-appropriate Certificate of Occupancy; change-of-use review if needed	City - Austin Development Services	Location / building	The exact suite and proposed food-service use were not verified. City says a CO evidences legal use/code compliance and that a small business may need change-of-use review for an updated CO.	Needs confirmation / Medium	Request an existing CO using the address and suite; City states a 1-5 business-day response for up to six requests. Plan-review scope depends on the actual use and work.	Austin Development Services Certificate of Occupancy Verified Sep. 23, 2026 Austin Development Services Small Business Permitting Verified Sep. 23, 2026

Next verification step

1. Obtain the suite number, lease/use details, and a copy of the current CO.
2. Confirm whether this is a change of ownership, remodel, or new construction; route to plan review where applicable.
3. Collect expected annual sales and employee count, then confirm the current food-permit tier at application time.
4. Re-screen the intake if alcohol, outdoor seating, signage, or a DBA is added.