The Environmental Public Health Division of Harris County Public Health requires permits to be obtained for food establishments. If your project requires a permit from Harris County Public Health, you must receive your approval from Harris County Public Health, prior to submitting for a commercial building permit through the Harris County Engineering Department.

How do I know if my project requires a food establishment permit from the Harris County Public Health Department?

The Environmental Public Health Division of Harris County Public Health requires permits for a variety of food establishments. If there is any question as to whether or not a permit is required, contact information for Harris County Public Health can be found at the bottom of this page. Some of the types of establishments that require permits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Category A Permit** – Any place where raw, Time/temperature Control for Safety (TCS) food is processed or prepared.
- **Category B Permit** – Any place where food preparation involves only reheating and/or serving of TCS food or the processing of non-TCS food.
- **Category C Permit** – Any place where only non-TCS foods and/or prepackaged TCS foods are served or sold. No food preparation or processing is involved.
- **Category D Permit** – Any place, permanent or seasonal, serving or offering for sale crushed or shaved ice made in conjunction with a sugar and water-based syrup that is a non-TCS food.

**Mobile Food Establishment Permit**

If a permit is required from the Environmental Public Health Division of Harris County Public Health, you must provide stamped/approved drawings from Harris County Public Health with your submittal to the Permits Division of the Harris County Engineering Department. If your submittal to the Permits Division of the Harris County Engineering Department requires this documentation and it is not provided, the submittal will be disapproved and returned to the applicant for resubmittal.