

Street trading stall design guidelines

Revised January 2019

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Street trading licensing - Guidance note

Purpose and aim

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the minimum standard of stall design which the council considers, when deciding whether to grant a street trading licence.

The aim is to provide consistent decision making by Belfast City Council in the performance of its street trading duties.

Background

The Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 (the Act) enables councils to regulate street trading through designating, licensing and enforcement procedures.

The Act repealed most of the provisions of the Street Trading (Regulation) Act (NI) 1929, except section 10 which contains the provisions whereby market rights can be acquired or extinguished.

Section 5 of the Act contains details on how an application for the grant, renewal or variation of street trading licences should be made.

Section 6 of the Act contains details on the granting of street trading licences.

Section 7 of the Act contains details on conditions relating to street trading licences.

Section 14 of the Act, contains details on temporary street trading licences.

Design guidelines and general principles

These design guidelines are the minimum standard which will be accepted by Belfast City Council.

Each case must be considered on its own merits, but there are general principles that apply in all cases. Belfast City Council have a duty to make sure that each street trading licence application is fairly and objectively assessed and that all relevant factors are considered.

Designs, materials, signage and finishes should be appropriate for the context and of the highest

quality. The design of any stall must comply with all relevant health and safety legislation.

A simple, coherent and traditional colour scheme is required, avoiding the use of bright or garish colours.

A high quality contemporary design manufactured from 25mm (1") square steel tube with a 2mm wall thickness to give strength which is zinc plated or hot-dip galvanised to overcome corrosion problems will be acceptable.

The stall design must be fitted with canvas or heavy duty PVC fitted roof cover with scalloped edges. The roof must be pitched or domed to prevent water collection.

A matching fitted 'skirt' must be attached to the counter area; this will give a professional looking appearance to the stall.

Where walls are required for the stall, they must be of the same high quality material used for the fitted roof and must be made to measure to enable a fitted appearance.

The design must not exceed 3 metres in length and 1.5 metres in width (inclusive of wheels). All materials used must be fire retardant.

Belfast City Council may, where appropriate, give preference to stalls designed and constructed to a higher standard including traditional timber barrows, handcarts, tricycles or kiosks which are constructed from appropriate traditional materials, such as timber panels. These stalls must have a fitted roof or umbrella, constructed of timber panelling, canvass or heavy duty PVC with scalloped edges.

The council may consider novel alternative stall designs which add to the colour, ambience, and vibrancy of an area in exceptional circumstances and in particular locations, subject to such consultation as it considers appropriate.



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For mobile or stationary licences which require the use of a vehicle or trailer (such as ice-cream vans or catering trailers in industrial estates), the vehicle or trailer must be designed and constructed using materials, finishes and signage which are appropriate for the context and of the highest quality. The vehicle or trailer must comply with all relevant road safety and vehicular legislation. The design must not exceed 6 metres in length and 2.25 metres in width (inclusive of wheels).

All stalls, no matter the design, must be easily moved to facilitate access. Stalls, vehicles, trailers or any receptacle which is used, must always be removed at the end of trading and must not return again to the trading site until a half hour before the licensed trading time.

If, in an individual case, the council decides to grant a design which varies from any of these guidelines, such a decision cannot be taken to have created any kind of precedent in respect of future applications.

Requirements regarding maintenance

Only the standard agreed design may be used.

The stall must be kept clean and tidy.

Broken, soiled or torn parts must be replaced without undue delay.

Additions may not be added to the design without the prior approval of Belfast City Council.

The standard fitted roof plus counter skirt and walls must be used and in place while trading.

Licence conditions

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 7(2) of the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001, the City Council can prescribe Conditions to a licence; such Conditions may include the following:

- Any stall, vehicle or trailer at which food and beverage products are stored, prepared, handled or sold must comply with the relevant food hygiene legislation.
- Any awnings must not overhang the pitch.

- No containers, materials, goods or articles are to be displayed outside the confines of the stall, vehicle or trailer.
- Advertisements should be kept to an absolute minimum, being signwritten in a traditional manner, and located in traditional positions (at fascia level only).
- The licensee must provide suitable impervious receptacles for the storage of wastepaper or any other refuse. When removing the stall from the trading site, the licensee must ensure that all rubbish and litter occasioned by trading is collected, placed in such suitable receptacles and removed for disposal at a suitable and proper place.

This policy may be amended or replaced at any time without consultation of other parties.

Place and Economy

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