

## Business Permit FAQs

(for food businesses)

(Gifu Prefectural Consumer Health Division)

**Q1** I would like to open a restaurant, who should I contact about this?

**A1**

You need a business permit to open a restaurant as stipulated in the Food Health Act. Please contact the public health center (hoken-jo) in charge of the area you would like to open your restaurant in.

Public Health Center	Phone Number	Area covered
Gifu Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	058-380-3003	Hashima-shi, Kakamigahara-shi, Hashima-gun
Motosu・Yamagata Center, Consumer Health Division	058-264-1111 (switchboard number)	Mizuho-shi, Yamagata-shi, Motosu-shi, Motosu-gun
Seino Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	0584-73-1111 (switchboard number)	Ogaki-shi, Kaizu-shi, Yoro-gun, Fuwa-gun, Anpachi-gun
Ibi Center, Consumer Health Division	0585-23-1111 (switchboard number)	Ibi-gun
Seki Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	0575-33-4011 (switchboard number)	Seki-shi, Mino-shi
Gujo Center, Public Health Division	0575-67-1111 (switchboard number)	Gujo-shi
Chuno Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	0574-25-3111 (switchboard number)	Minokamo-shi, Kani-shi, Kamo-gun, Kani-gun
Tono Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	0572-23-1111 (switchboard number)	Tajimi-shi, Mizunami-shi, Toki-shi
Ena Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	0573-26-1111 (switchboard number)	Nakatsugawa-shi, Ena-shi
Hida Public Health Center, Consumer Health Division	0577-33-1111 (switchboard number)	Takayama-shi, Hida-shi, Ono-gun

Gero Center, Consumer Health Division	0576-52-3111 (switchboard number)	Gero-shi
Gifu City Public Health Center, Food Hygiene Division	058-252-7194	Gifu-shi

**Q2** Do I also need a business permit to make and sell bento?

**A2**

Yes, you will also need a business permit to make bento/ packed lunches. If you planning to set up a food stand at an event to sell bento, you will need to file a business notification. If you are considering making and selling food products, contact the public health center with jurisdiction over the area (listed above) where you plan to make and sell the food.

**Q3** Are there any standards restaurants must comply with?

**A3**

There are standards for the structure of restaurant establishments and for equipment. Please go to the public health center with the floor plan of the proposed restaurant beforehand (with equipment such as sink and toilet facilities, gas stoves, boilers and refrigerators, as well as entrances and exits marked on the plan). A detailed explanation will be given as to whether it complies with the standards or not.

**Q4** Do I need to be a licensed chef to open a restaurant?

**A4**

Restaurants must have a Food Hygiene Manager. If you have a chef's license issued in Japan you are qualified to become a Food Hygiene Manager. If you don't have a license, you can take the Food Hygiene Manager Training Course, which takes approximately 6 hours, to be certified as a Food Hygiene Manager. Check the Gifu Prefecture Food Hygiene Association website for more information.

**Q5** What is a Food Hygiene Manager?

**A5**

The Food Hygiene Manager is in charge of hygiene in the kitchen and is responsible for training other workers in food hygiene. The Food Hygiene Manager must take the Food Hygiene Manager Training Course every year.

**Q6** When applying for a business permit, what is inspected by the public health center staff?

**A6**

Staff will inspect the proposed establishment to see if it complies with the standards as per the floor plan submitted as part of the application. Establishments that are non-compliant cannot obtain a business license.

**Q7** Are there any standards for selling fast food from a vehicle?

**A7**

There are standards for the sale of food and drink from vehicles, for example pertaining to refrigeration equipment. Please go to the relevant public health center beforehand with the floor plan of the vehicle for a detailed explanation of these standards.

**Q8** I am thinking about selling sandwiches from a vehicle; what do I need to know?

**A8**

You can sell sandwiches from a vehicle if there is refrigeration equipment in said vehicle. However, if you are also going to be making the sandwiches, you need a vehicle business license. If you have a place to store your vehicle in Gifu Prefecture, you consult with the public health center with jurisdiction over the place of storage about your plans to sell food from the vehicle. If you have a place to store your vehicle outside Gifu Prefecture, consult with the health center with jurisdiction over your main (planned) place of business.

**Q9** Can I park my vehicle anywhere and sell food and drink?

**A9**

You need the landowner's permission to park your vehicle and sell food and drink. In principle, selling on ordinary roads is not permitted.

**Q10** How long does it take to receive a food business permit after submitting an application?

**A10**

If there are no issues it should take approximately two weeks to receive the permit following

your application.

**Q11** I am thinking about opening a shop or restaurant in Aichi Prefecture. Are business permits that have been issued in Gifu Prefecture valid in other prefectures?

**A11**

Business permits for shops and/or restaurants in fixed locations have been issued for that establishment (location), so if you would like to open a shop or restaurant in Aichi Prefecture with a fixed location (i.e. not operating out of a vehicle), you must get a permit from a public health center in Aichi.

**Q12** If I relocate the business, can I use my current business permit?

**A12**

The business permit was issued for the current establishment and is only valid for that location, so you cannot use it after relocating. You must obtain a new business permit for the location you have moved to. Please also submit a notification of the discontinuation of business at the previous location.

**Q13** I have taken over an establishment that already has a business permit. Can I operate under the previous owner's permit?

**A13**

Business transfers became possible on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, so please consult with the public health center with jurisdiction over the location of the business.

**Q14** How long are business permits valid?

**A14**

For 5 years.

**Q15** How much does it cost to apply for a business permit?

**A15**

It costs 16,000 yen to apply for a food business permit. The cost varies depending on the type of industry, so please contact the public health center beforehand.

**Q16** If I close my business what should I do with the business permit certificate?

**A16**

You must carry out closing down procedures when closing your business. Make sure to notify the relevant public health center about the closure.