



FOOD AND DRUG BRANCH



PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A WATER HAULER LICENSE License Application Form: CDPH 8605

California Health and Safety Code (H&SC) Section 111120 requires operators of water haulers (WH) operating in California to obtain a Water Hauler License issued by the Department of Public Health's Food and Drug Branch (FDB). The Water Hauler License is required to haul water in bulk for drinking, culinary or other purposes involving a likelihood of the water being ingested by humans. "In bulk" means containers having capacities of 250 gallons or greater. If you have a valid Bottled Water Manufacturing Plant License issued by FDB and the water hauler is based and operating at the same location as the bottled water facility, you are exempt from paying the fee associated with the WH license. However, you must still obtain a valid WH license for the water hauling vehicle(s). The following describes what you must do to obtain the license.

Water hauling vehicles are defined as self-propelled or towed vehicles having an attached water tank, with or without pumps, hoses and accessory equipment for filling or distribution of water. The tank must exceed 250 gallons capacity and comply with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. Use of convertible trucks, dump trucks or flat bed trucks with detachable tanks is allowed if the tanks are securely attached. No detached tank or vehicle without a tank will be inspected or licensed.

FDB designates water haulers under its jurisdiction by two categories, B and X.

- Category B haulers can haul potable water or any food product including wine, syrup, fruit concentrates and soft drink concentrates. Category B haulers **cannot** haul non-food products.
- Category X haulers can **only haul potable water**. No other materials may be hauled by Category X haulers.

LICENSE APPLICATION

Submit a fully completed Water Hauler License Application form with the required fee. To obtain an application form, you may call FDB at (916) 650-6500 or download the form from the FDB website (<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/manfprocdistrib/Pages/Food.aspx>; click "Form CDPH 8605").

Important points regarding completion of the application form:

- Include the firm name
- For RENEWAL licenses, include the license number
- Write the phrase "PCA Code 76204" on your check or money order.
- The business address must be the normal storage location of the hauling vehicle(s).
- The mailing address can be that of the normal storage location, corporate headquarters branch office, operator's residence, etc. Licenses and renewal notices will be sent to the mailing address listed on the application form
- The vehicle identification number and license plate number for each vehicle must be written onto the application form.
- Proper telephone numbers must be provided on the application in order to expedite scheduling of inspection appointments.

Any incomplete and/or illegible applications will be RETURNED to the applicant. **License fees are non-refundable. Water Hauler Licenses are non-transferrable to new owners or to person's operating other vehicles.** A change of the WH ownership will require submittal of a NEW application.

The WH License is valid for one year, and its expiration date is printed on the license. It is your responsibility to renew the license prior to the expiration date. You will receive a renewal notice from FDB approximately two months before the expiration date of your license. Follow the instructions on the renewal notice and submit the completed application form, a check or money order for the license fee payment and a copy of the most recent coliform test data for the water hauler vehicle(s). Please write the vehicle identification number and license plate number on the coliform test data. If you do not receive a renewal notice, please contact the FDB Water Licensing Desk at (916) 650-6500.

INSPECTION and OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

FDB will perform an inspection of your WH vehicle(s) prior to issuance of the license. FDB will also conduct periodic inspections once the license has been issued. Inspections are conducted to ensure that the facility is in compliance with the applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

A. General Requirements – Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 21, Part 129.40: All water contact equipment shall be suitable for its intended use, including tanks, surfaces, hoses, pumps, valves, fittings and lubricants. All such equipment shall be constructed of non-toxic, non-absorbent material which can be adequately cleaned and sanitized. All equipment shall be constructed so as to allow inspection and adequate sanitation of water contact surfaces.

The following Guidelines regarding equipment will assist you to ensure compliance with CFR Part 129.40.

1. Tanks

a. Tank Materials -

- i. The prior use of a tank must be known. If the tank was used for non-food purposes, FDB will require testing by an approved laboratory to assure safety. The required testing is covered later in this procedure.
- ii. Examples of Acceptable Tank Materials: stainless steel; food grade plastics; food grade epoxy coatings; glass and glass coatings; aluminum (smooth finished); copper; ceramic.
- iii. Examples of Unacceptable Tank Materials: non-coated steel or galvanized steel; rusted or cracked surfaces; tar, bituminous, or asbestos coatings; coatings that are not documented as food grade.
- iv. Existing equipment with galvanized steel will not be allowed unless a food grade coating has been applied to all water contact surfaces and the required curing procedures have been followed.

b. Tank Construction –

i. Openings:

- A. Hatches and other openings, except fittings for water entry or discharge, shall be completely covered and sealed with tight fitting coverings, permanently mounted food grade gaskets, or screw or clamp fastenings. The exception is for Category B haulers which are equipped with security locks.

- a. Acceptable: Hoses shall have approved food grade water contact surfaces prepared from plastic, synthetic rubber, metal or other smooth non-porous material.
 - b. Unacceptable: Rubber hoses, garden hoses, canvas fire hoses, radiator or engine cooling system hoses, surface water drafting hoses.
4. Other Equipment on Licensed Vehicles:
- a. Piping: Food grade plastic or acceptable metal (brass, aluminum, stainless steel, copper) may be used. No corroded steel, galvanized steel or black pipe.
 - b. Canteen filling equipment must have effective backflow prevention (check valves) and dispensing spouts or hose bibs.
 - c. Miscellaneous Equipment: Potable water heaters, pressure tanks and other equipment for operation of shower and kitchen units are allowed.
 - d. Spray Bays are **not allowed unless** equipped with an acceptable backflow prevention device.
 - e. Fire hoses/nozzles and surface water drafting equipment are **not allowed**.
5. Labeling Requirements: The following statements must be permanently attached to or painted onto the vehicle and must be fully visible and legible at all times:
- a. The name and address of the licensee must appear on both sides of the tank or on both truck cab doors in letters at least 2 inches in height. If the tank is covered or located inside a vehicle, this information must be on each truck cab door or on each side of the container.
 - b. The words “drinking water” or “potable water” must appear on both sides of the tank in letters of at least 4 inches in height. If the tank is covered or located inside the vehicle, this information must be on each truck cab door or on each side of the container.
 - c. The capacity (gallonage) of the tank must appear on both sides of the tank or on both cab doors in letters of at least 2 inches in height. If the tank is covered or located inside the vehicle, this information must be on each truck cab door or on each side of the container.
 - d. A sticker provided by FDB shall be affixed to the upper left quarter of the rear of the tank and shall be visible at all times. If the tank is covered or located inside the vehicle, the sticker must be affixed to the upper left quarter of the rear of the VEHICLE. The sticker indicates that the vehicle has been inspected and found to be in compliance with applicable requirements.
6. Inspection and Sanitizing: All equipment surfaces intended for potable water contact, including source fill point equipment, containers, caps, tanks, hoses, valves, filters and fittings shall be inspected, washed, rinsed, sanitized and replaced as often as necessary to effect and maintain sanitation of such surfaces. Procedures to be used are contained in CFR Part 129.80.
- a. If household chlorine bleach (containing 5% chlorine) is to be used as a sanitizer, use one gallon of chlorine bleach in 1,000 gallons of water. Agitate the chlorine solution thoroughly and allow contact with tank hoses for at least 30 minutes. Run chlorine solution to waste through delivery hoses. The tank must then be thoroughly rinsed with potable water before filling.
 - b. Adequate cleaning and sanitizing procedures as described in subsection (a) above shall be used on hauling vehicles and associated equipment at the following times:

- i. When equipment is first placed into service; when it has been unused and stored in a sealed condition for a period of 4 weeks or more; or when it hauled any food products other than potable water.
For Category B Vehicles: When any food product has been hauled, the tank, hoses and other equipment must be thoroughly cleaned, sanitized and rinsed. **Water samples must be collected for coliform analysis.** Licensees may haul water only if the test data shows that the water contains coliform bacteria of less than 2.2 MPM/100 ml (or “absence” if the presence/absence test is used).
 - ii. When the filled or empty tank has been exposed by open or unsealed cover caps or fittings to any condition of possible contamination of the tank or contents. This includes potential contamination from dust, smoke, rain, or chemical substances.
 - iii. When any fault or defect becomes apparent in the seals, vents, hatch doors, welds, valves, pipes, pumps, hoses, or other equipment which may allow the water to become contaminated.
 - iv. When bacterial analysis of the water indicates presence of *E. coli*.
7. **Bacteria Testing:** Hauled water samples shall be submitted to an approved water laboratory for coliform testing at the following times:
 - a. The first water load following any of the required sanitation procedures described in (6) above.
 - b. At least one sample of hauled water every 30 days during months when water hauling is performed.
 - c. Whenever such analysis is requested by state or local health authorities.
 - d. All testing must be done by a California laboratory that has been certified for testing water or by a laboratory certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). For a list of certified laboratories, please contact the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) at (510) 620-3155 or <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/labs/Pages/ELAP.aspx>. Testing done by a laboratory approved by the primary enforcement authority in states which have been granted primacy by the USEPA is also acceptable pursuant to H&SC 111165.
 - e. Take four samples and send all four samples to the testing laboratory. The laboratory will randomly select one of the four samples to test for coliforms.
 - f. The laboratory may use the presence/absence (P&A) test for the coliform analysis. Only negative (absence) test data are acceptable. **If a sample tests positive (presence) for coliforms, you must further test the water for *E. coli*. If *E. coli* is detected, you must immediately stop distributing the water; notify the FDB Licensing Desk; investigate the cause of the problem; take corrective actions and resample/test the water. You must not resume the distribution of water until the test shows no *E. coli* in the water.**
 - g. Pursuant to H&SC Section 111155, FDB may ask you to test for other contaminant(s) if FDB suspects the substance(s) may be present in the water.
8. **Storing of Water:** Water shall NOT be stored in the vehicle for a period of greater than one week.
9. **Logs:** The hauler shall keep a log of activities **on board the vehicle**, including:

- a. Dates of cleaning and sanitation procedures. This log is to include descriptions of processes used for cleaning/sanitizing. For example: cleaning agents, contact time, concentration of sanitizing agent.
 - b. Water sources used. This log is to include: dates, gallonage and the name of the person who authorized/directed use of the source.
 - c. Delivery points, including dates and volumes delivered.
 - d. Copies of agreements, contracts, licenses
 - e. Test results of bacterial (coliform and *E. coli*) testing
10. Record Retention: CFR Part 129.80 (h) requires all information/test data to be maintained for at least 2 years. Refer to Part 129.80 (h) regarding the types of information to be kept.
11. Design or Construction Changes: You must inform FDB when any changes are made in the design or construction of your water treatment system.