Micro Market FAQ’s

What is the definition of micro market?
"Micro Market" means a retail food establishment that offers the following in displays not more than two hundred and fifty linear feet:
(a) Prepackaged non-time/temperature controlled for safety food;
(b) Prepackaged refrigerated or frozen time/temperature controlled for safety food that is stored in equipment that complies with 3717-1-03.4 (H), 3717-1-04.1 (LL), and 3717-1-04.1 (MM) of the Administrative Code.

What might a micro market look like?
Micro markets are typically unmanned stores located in office buildings that offer fresh foods, snacks, and beverages to staff for purchasing via a self-checkout kiosk. The foods sold may be either prepackaged non-Time and Temperature Controlled (TCS) food or TCS food;

What equipment is required?
All equipment must be commercial grade and approved by a recognized testing agency. The coolers and freezers that offer TCS foods must have automatic shutoff health switches to prevent the sale of food in the event of a temperature control issue, power failure or during other equipment malfunction.

Can a micro market sell coffee?
Yes. A coffee vending machine could be located nearby for the convenience of consumers. These machines must be commercial grade and approved by a recognized testing agency.

Can a micro market have a microwave oven?
Yes. Microwave ovens are allowed inside the Micro Market.

Can Micro Market sell fresh, whole intact produce such as bananas or grapes?
Yes. The produce must be ready to eat, i.e., pre-washed and if the skin of the produce will be eaten, the produce must be provided with a suitable utensil or effective methods that protect the food from contamination. For example, an apple would need a protective cover or wrap. Fruit such as a banana or orange that will be peeled prior to being consumed won’t need a protective cover. The washing and pre-packaging must occur in an appropriately licensed facility.

Are Micro Markets required to go through plan review?
Yes. micro markets have to submit a Food Plan Review Application and plan review fee, to be approved for licensing.

Does a Micro Market inside of a cafeteria need to have a separate license?
Yes. A micro market must have its own license.

Do vending machines inside of a Micro Market need to be licensed?
No. Vending machines do not need to be licensed if they are under the control of the operator of the micro market.

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