

Guide for water carting businesses

Registration requirements for businesses selling water intended for public consumption

OFFICIAL

This information is for any water carting business that delivers water for sale to the public which is intended for:

- human consumption, or
- purposes connected with human consumption (such as preparation of food, making ice for consumption, or preserving unpackaged food).

The information in this guide is not applicable to other water carting activities, which may include moving potable water between water agency supply systems and providing water where no sale to the public occurs. These activities are outside the scope of the Food Act 1984 requirements.

Registration under the Food Act 1984

What is required?

Registration

Each water transport vehicle in your business being used for the above purposes is a class 3 'premises' and must be registered under the *Food Act 1984* (the Act). The registration is valid across the state of Victoria and is required to be renewed every 12 months.

Penalties can apply if a water transport vehicle is operating without a current registration under the Act. These penalties include an infringement notice or prosecution in the Magistrates' Court of Victoria.

Which authority do I register with?

Local council

The council in whose district your vehicle(s) is garaged.

How do I register?

Online

Applications for registration of water carters are completed by creating and using an online account on the Department of Health's website 'Streatrader'. The website is a statewide register for temporary and mobile food businesses and can be found at: <https://streatrader.health.vic.gov.au>.

How to ensure the water you sell is safe

Water transport businesses selling water are responsible for ensuring the water sold for human consumption is safe to drink or use in food preparation.

Water transport businesses need to ensure that:

- water is sourced from a potable source
- only registered water transport vehicles are used
- water transport vehicles are able to be cleaned and sanitised appropriately.

Obtain your potable supply

The water you transport and sell for consumption must be of potable quality.

Water carters may wish to source potable water from a Victorian water agency. Water agencies may impose additional requirements on water carters to ensure the water agency's water supply system is protected from contamination at all times.

If you have any doubts about the quality of any water source or water to be transported and delivered to the customer, you should seek advice from the relevant local water agency or supplier of the water source.

Design and construction of your water transport vehicle

A water transport vehicle must be appropriately designed and constructed to prevent any possible contamination and to enable effective cleaning and sanitising.

If the vehicle was used for another purpose before used for transporting potable water, you should take that prior use into consideration as it may pose a risk to the water.

Cleaning and sanitising your water transport vehicle

Vehicles used to transport potable water for sale to the public must be able to be cleaned and sanitised.

Potable water contact surfaces must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, including the lining of the vehicle's tank, openings, lids, seals, fittings and pipes.

The cleaning process involves the removal of dirt from the surface, followed by sanitising to remove or reduce the numbers of microbial pathogens.

If a vehicle has not been used for some time, it will need to be cleaned and sanitised before it is suitable for carting potable water.

Record keeping requirements

You will need to keep records relating to:

- the water agency from which you purchase water to be sold for human consumption (name of water agency, address and telephone number)

- dockets or invoices received from this water agency

All records must be kept for 12 months.

Your registering council can advise you further about this when you apply for registration.

Other information

Water sources

To ensure that the water you deliver and sell is safe, it is important that the water is collected from an outlet managed by a recognised water agency.

For the contact details of Victoria's water agencies go to:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/environment-water/water/water-authorities.html>

For more help contact...

Local council

Your council environmental health officer is your best source of advice.

For the contact details of local councils across Victoria go to: <https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/>.

Food Safety Unit

Department of Health

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Melbourne 3001

Email: foodsafety@health.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 364 352

Web: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/food-safety>

Streatrader: <https://streatrader.health.vic.gov.au>

To receive this document in another format, phone [1300 364 652](tel:1300364652), using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [email Food Safety](mailto:foodsafety@health.vic.gov.au) <foodsafety@health.vic.gov.au>.

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Available at [Private drinking water carters](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/food-safety/private-drinking-water-carters)< https://www.health.vic.gov.au/food-safety/private-drinking-water-carters>