

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (DCA)

Gretchen Dykstra, Commissioner

WHAT THE AGENCY DOES

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs conducts all of its efforts with a single purpose in mind: To foster a marketplace that consumers can trust and in which businesses can thrive.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

LICENSING

Consumer Affairs operates the New York City License Center, which issues licenses to more than 60,000 businesses in 55 categories. Businesses requiring licenses include home improvement contractors, cigarette dealers, sidewalk cafes, vendors, parking lots and cabarets. Permits and licenses are available on our website at www.nyc.gov/consumer.

Stoop Line Stands

- Request for oversized stands – A business can apply for an oversized stand at anytime (oversized stand is a 5 feet stand). Before issuing a license, however, the stand must be inspected to determine if the sidewalk space has sufficient space so as to not interfere with the pedestrian traffic.
- Landlord Consent – This form is attached to the license application and must be signed and notarized by the Landlord of the address at which a license is being sought. The Landlord can revoke the consent at any time.
- Different Types of Goods – Stoop line stand licenses are broken down in 3 subclasses classified as 1 (Fruits, Vegetables, Soft Drinks or Flowers), 2 (Confectionary) or 3 (Ice Cream) depending on the types of goods you are displaying.
- Stoop line stand licenses cannot be used to display merchandise other than what the subclass of the license allows.
- You may not use crates or boxes to display the merchandise.
- You may not make sales, cut or clean flowers or fruit on the sidewalk.

General Vendor

- General vendor (non-food) license – Can be obtained by an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces. All non-veterans must wait for a spot on the waiting list to open.
- Currently, there are approximately 3,200 names on the existing waiting list. No new waiting list will be open until all names are depleted from this list. At that time, DCA will conduct a citywide communications/media campaign to notify everyone who may be interested.
- There are only 853 licensed non-veteran vendors citywide at any given time.
- An alternative is applying for a Street Fair Permit, which enables you to vend at street fairs.
- No license is required to sell written materials and art but a vendor must still follow the law regarding restricted areas and size of tables.

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WHO TO CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Website: www.nyc.gov/consumer

Call 311 with questions