

Use Compliance Certificate

Information Sheet



When is a Use Compliance Certificate required?

A Use Compliance Certificate is required any time a business occupies/moves into an existing building or an existing business expands the square footage used or adds to, or changes the business activities. Examples include:

- A new clothing store moves into an existing retail space.
- A restaurant expands their operation to include a banquet / reception room.
- A building (or portion of a building) that has been used for warehousing is converted to manufacturing activities.

Prior to opening, a Use Compliance Certificate must be obtained. Use Compliance Certificates are issued on a permanent basis. Once issued, the Certificate remains valid until the business moves, expands, or adds uses/activities.

Why a Use Compliance Certificate?

This Certificate provides an inclusive review by multiple city departments to ensure compliance with local regulations through one application and one point-of-contact with the City, simplifying the process for the business. The Use Compliance Certificate includes verification of compliance with the Zoning Code, Fire Code, City Engineering Standards, and Utilities Code, as well as ensuring necessary information is available for the Revenue Collections Department, Police Department, and GIS (Geographic Information Services).

Where do I get the application?

The application can be downloaded from the City of Sidney website at www.sidneyoh.com or by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.sidneyoh.com/DocumentCenter/View/218/Use-Compliance-Certificate-Application-PDF>

OR

Applications are available at the

Community Development Department
City Hall
201 West Poplar Street
Sidney, Ohio

IMPORTANT: The Use Compliance Certificate is for review of local regulations only. Other county, state, and federal regulations, permits, and licenses may be necessary.

What do I need to do?

To start the process, the application must be filled out **completely**. It is important to provide detailed information on the activities that will take place, for example: "retail sales of ____; evening classes with ____ people; production/manufacture of ____; meetings with 1 to ____ people; machinery and equipment will include ____." Accompanying the application *must* be a current backflow inspection and \$10.00 application fee. **Applications submitted without the backflow or application fee will be returned to the applicant.**

How long will it take?

A review will be completed, with either comments or approval forwarded to the applicant no later than 10 working days after submittal. Assuming the application is complete and there are no questions or issues concerning compliance with local regulations, the approval can usually be accomplished within 3 working days.

Penalties

Opening, moving, or expanding a business without obtaining a Use Compliance Certificate may result in both the business owner as well as the property owner being found guilty of a minor misdemeanor and fined up to the maximum penalty (currently \$150 per day) for each day of violation.