



DESIGN + MANAGE + INNOVATE

## Speed Oven Challenge 2026

A comprehensive, side-by-side evaluation of leading speed oven technologies designed to provide transparent performance data for foodservice decision-makers.

Taking Place JUNE 2026



# Purpose of the Challenge

The Speed Oven Challenge delivers a **real-world, standardized evaluation** of leading speed oven technologies across multiple certification categories. Through controlled testing conditions, standardized menus, and operator-focused criteria, we'll highlight critical performance metrics including speed, usability, consistency, and versatility.

This transparent comparison supports informed decision-making across the entire foodservice equipment ecosystem. We will publish these results in an unbiased White Paper format to be shared freely.

## Who Benefits

### Operators

Evaluating speed ovens for production kitchens, cafés, coffee shops and non-traditional foodservice environments

### Designers & Consultants

Assessing infrastructure requirements, ventilation impacts, and specification considerations

### Manufacturers

Showcasing equipment performance under consistent, transparent testing conditions



# Speed Oven Categories

To ensure fair and meaningful comparison, participating ovens will be evaluated within three distinct certification categories, each with unique regulatory and installation considerations.



## UL 710B **CERTIFIED** Ventless

Ventless-**certified** units compliant with UL 710B standards, requiring an on-board recirculating grease filtration system for deployment in environments with limited or no traditional exhaust infrastructure



## KNLZ **CERTIFIED**

Ovens **certified** under **KNLZ** standards, evaluated with consideration for performance, safety, and comprehensive regulatory compliance



## Unlisted Speed Ovens

Speed ovens without UL 710B or KNLZ certification, included to showcase performance capabilities with acknowledgment of differing installation and ventilation requirements

## SUB-CATEGORIES

Additional SUB-CATEGORIES will be created for documentation. For example, a ventless conveyor oven will be tested in a Conveyor sub-category.

When ever possible we will attempt to include more than one manufacturer in each sub-category.



ALL ovens submitting under a **CERTIFIED** category must submit a valid certificate from an approved certification agency i.e. UL (Underwriters Laboratories)  
Each category will be evaluated independently, with results contextualized based on certification status and intended application environment.

# Challenge Structure Overview



01 The Speed Oven Challenge follows a **standardized testing format** to ensure consistent and comparable results across all participants.

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## **Standardized Menu Testing**

02 Common menu applied across all participating ovens within each category

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## **Consistent Preparation Methods**

03 Uniform ingredient specifications and preparation protocols

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## **Defined Performance Criteria**

04 Speed, quality, consistency, ease of use, and recovery time measurements

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## **Operational Observation**

05 Assessment of workflow efficiency, equipment footprint, and operator learning curve

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# Key Dates & Milestones

Oven Installation & Testing Complete  
**By May 29, 2026**

- All participating ovens fully installed, commissioned, and operational
- Initial testing and troubleshooting completed prior to challenge preparation

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Menu Distribution & Manufacturer Meetings  
**June 1-12, 2026**

- Finalized menus issued to all manufacturers
- Manufacturer programming support and after-sales training provided
- Recipe validation and parameter optimization completed

In-House Preparation Week  
**Week of June 15, 2026**

- FoodSpace team conducts internal prep and dry runs
- Final checks on ingredients, workflows, and scoring criteria
- Readiness confirmation ahead of test week execution

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## Manufacturer Participation Expectations

- Provide and install equipment within agreed timelines by proper local installation service (Boise, ID Metro)
- Participate in menu programming and training support
- Manufacturer Chef to be **ONSITE** during their testing day(s)

# Participation Requirements

To ensure a smooth and equitable challenge for all participants, prospective manufacturers must fulfill the following requirements:



## Submit Interest Form

Complete the official submission form, providing your contact information and expressing your intent to participate in the challenge by May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.



## Specify Oven Model

Clearly state the make, model, and certification category (UL 710B, KNLZ, or Unlisted) of the speed oven(s) you wish to enter for evaluation.



## Remit Entry Fee

A non-refundable entry fee of \$500 is required to cover administrative costs, specialized materials, and testing personnel time.