

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

California

A comprehensive guide to the cottage food statute, sales rules, and county-level zoning and health-department overlays for home bakers operating under Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758.

STATUTE	TIER	IJ GRADE	COUNTIES COVERED
Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758	Good	C	58

LAST VERIFIED

2026-05-05

IMPORTANT – NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above. **Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision.** Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

Contents

Executive summary	5
California Homemade Food Act (AB 1616, amended AB 1144/AB 831) — Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758	6
County-level rules (58 counties)	8
#1 Los Angeles County · Los Angeles	8
#5 San Diego County · San Diego	9
#6 Orange County · Santa Ana	11
#10 Riverside County · Riverside	13
#14 San Bernardino County · San Bernardino	14
#18 Santa Clara County · San Jose	16
#20 Alameda County · Oakland	18
#24 Sacramento County	20
#38 Contra Costa County · Martinez	21
#47 Fresno County · Fresno	23
#62 Kern County · Bakersfield	24
#70 San Francisco County · San Francisco	26
#72 Ventura County · Ventura	28
#80 San Joaquin County · Stockton	29
#86 San Mateo County · Redwood City	31
#124 Stanislaus County · Modesto	33
#144 Sonoma County · Santa Rosa	34

#148	Tulare County · Visalia	36
#156	Solano County · Fairfield	37
#157	Santa Barbara County · Santa Barbara	39
#160	Monterey County · Salinas	41
#173	Placer County · Auburn	43
#246	Merced County · Merced	45
#247	San Luis Obispo County · San Luis Obispo	47
#257	Santa Cruz County · Santa Cruz	48
#268	Marin County · San Rafael	50
#313	Yolo County · Woodland	51
#317	Butte County · Oroville	53
#347	El Dorado County · Placerville	55
#365	Shasta County · Redding	57
#370	Imperial County · El Centro	59
#423	Madera County · Madera	60
#440	Kings County · Hanford	62
#465	Napa County · Napa	63
#471	Humboldt County · Eureka	65
#588	Nevada County · Nevada City	66
#604	Sutter County · Yuba City	68
#650	Mendocino County · Ukiah	70
#694	Yuba County · Marysville	72
#780	Lake County · Lakeport	73

#815 Tehama County · Red Bluff	75
#828 San Benito County · Hollister	77
#925 Tuolumne County · Sonora	78
#9999 Alpine County · Markleeville	80
#9999 Amador County · Jackson	82
#9999 Calaveras County · San Andreas	83
#9999 Colusa County · Colusa	85
#9999 Del Norte County · Crescent City	87
#9999 Glenn County · Willows	88
#9999 Inyo County · Independence	90
#9999 Lassen County · Susanville	92
#9999 Mariposa County · Mariposa	93
#9999 Modoc County · Alturas	95
#9999 Mono County · Bridgeport	97
#9999 Plumas County · Quincy	98
#9999 Sierra County · Downieville	100
#9999 Siskiyou County · Yreka	102
#9999 Trinity County · Weaverville	103

Executive summary

This report covers the California cottage food framework — the state statute, the regulatory body administering it, what producers can and cannot sell, and county-level rules layered on top of state law for the 58 California counties included in this dataset.

ANNUAL SALES CAP

tiered (see notes)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

yes

FOOD HANDLER CERTIFICATION

yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

no

DIRECT SALES ONLY

no

INDIRECT SALES (RETAIL/ONLINE/WHOLESALE)

limited (see notes) — Class B permit holders may sell indirectly through retail stores and restaurants statewide; Class A registrants are limited to direct sales only and may not sell through any retail or wholesale venue.

RESEARCH NOTES

Two-tier system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206 cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect, ~\$172,411 cap as of 2025). Caps are CPI-adjusted annually. Class B requires a home kitchen inspection and is more expensive to obtain. Food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited course). Local environmental health departments handle permits/registrations and fees vary by county. Separate MEHKO (Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation) program (SB 972/AB 1144) allows full home meal service in opt-in counties but cannot be operated simultaneously with a CFO. Local zoning preempted statewide by GOV §51035. Before 2022, Class B CFOs selling in other counties needed per-county permission; AB 1144 (2021) removed this restriction. Only one non-family employee permitted.

California Homemade Food Act (AB 1616, amended AB 1144/AB 831)

CITATION

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

ENACTED

2012

LAST AMENDED

2021

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

Allowed foods

Only foods on the official state-approved foods list may be sold; this includes most non-perishable foods such as baked goods, jams and preserves, candies, chocolates, dried goods, and spices. Class A operations are limited to direct sales (including online and shipping within California); Class B operations may additionally sell through retail stores and restaurants.

Prohibited foods

Temperature-controlled and perishable foods are prohibited. Products must be nonpotentially hazardous. Interstate sales are not permitted. All sales and deliveries must remain within California.

Labeling requirements

Labels must include the county name, permit or registration number, and the statement 'Made in a Home Kitchen' or 'Repackaged in a Home Kitchen.' Wherever the CFO advertises to the public (including websites and social media), all three of these items must be included.

Statutory text — verbatim excerpt

Statute excerpt — verbatim

(a) "Cottage food operation" means an enterprise that has no more than the amount in gross annual sales that is specified in this subdivision, is operated by a cottage food operator, and has no more than one full-time equivalent cottage food employee, not including a family member or household member of the cottage food operator, within the registered or permitted area of a private home where the cottage food operator resides and where cottage food products are prepared or packaged for direct, indirect, or direct and indirect sale to consumers pursuant to this part. A "Class A" cottage food operation shall not have more than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in verifiable gross annual sales. A "Class B" cottage food operation shall not have more than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in verifiable gross annual sales. The gross annual sales for a "Class A" or "Class B" cottage food operation shall be annually adjusted for inflation based on the California Consumer Price Index. (1) A "Class A" cottage food operation, which is a cottage food operation that may engage only in direct sales of cottage food products from the cottage food operation or other direct sales venues. (2) A "Class B" cottage food operation, which is a cottage food operation that may engage in both direct sales and indirect sales of cottage food products from the cottage food operation, from direct sales venues, from offsite events, or from a third-party retail food facility. (3) "Cottage food products" means nonpotentially hazardous foods, including foods that are described in Section 114365.5 and that are prepared for sale in the kitchen of a cottage food operation. (4) "Direct sale" means a transaction within the state between a cottage food operation and a consumer, in which the consumer purchases the cottage food product directly from the cottage food operation. Direct sales include, but are not limited to, transactions at holiday bazaars or other temporary events, such as bake sales or food swaps, transactions at farm stands, certified farmers' markets, or through community-supported agriculture subscriptions.

Source: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

Official sources

Statute https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

State dept page https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

Extension service <https://ucanr.edu/site/agriculture-ombudsperson/cottage-food-operations>

Forrager.com <https://forrager.com/law/california/>

State dept of agriculture / health: **California Department of Public Health**

County-level rules

The state statute above sets the floor. Each county may add a home-occupation permit, business license, or zoning rule on top of state law. The 58 California counties below are sorted by population (largest first).

RANK 1 · FIPS 6037 · Los Angeles

Los Angeles County

Population 9,936,690 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · HIGH

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — LA County follows the state CFO Class A/B framework. Additionally, LA County opted into the MEHKO program in May 2024 (permits issued beginning November 1, 2024), allowing home cooks to operate small-scale restaurants serving up to 90 meals/week and 30 meals/day. The cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon have their own separate environmental health departments and run their own programs.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No pets allowed in food preparation area during production; consistent with state baseline GMPs.
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or suspected foodborne illness; Class B CFOs require initial inspection before permit issuance. MEHKO permits require an initial inspection before operation.
---------------------	---

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. No separate home-occupation permit is required for cottage food operations. MEHKO operators must obtain a separate MEHKO permit from LA County EH (\$597 application review fee, subsidized for first 1,000 permittees through June 2026).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A direct sales only (in-person, online, shipping within CA). Class B adds indirect retail. MEHKO allows direct meal service at home. State preemption bars local restrictions.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-family employee (state baseline); MEHKO allows 1 full-time equivalent (40 hr/week) employee

Relevant county code

LA County Ordinance adopting MEHKO (Board of Supervisors resolution, May 2024); LA County Code Title 11 (Health & Safety) — specific section not publicly codified at time of research

RESEARCH NOTES

LA County is one of the largest MEHKO opt-in jurisdictions in California. MEHKO permitting began November 2024; initial application fee is \$597 (subsidized for first 1,000 applicants through June 2026). Standard cottage food (CFO Class A and B) registration handled by LA County Environmental Health. Cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon have independent EH departments and administer their own programs separately.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov>

<https://planning.lacounty.gov>

<https://lacounty.gov>

<https://ph.lacounty.gov/mehko>

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/Eh/business/home-based-cottage-food.htm>

<https://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/inspection/mehko-inspection-guide.htm>

San Diego County

Population 3,289,701 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — San Diego County opted into the permanent MEHKO program (effective January 5, 2024), administered by the Department of Environmental Health and Quality (DEHQ). Standard CFO Class A (direct sales only) and Class B (indirect retail allowed, inspection required) registrations/permits also available. For cities within SD County, operators must also check city-specific permit/license requirements.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	Specific county requirement: private well users must submit full panel water testing results with MEHKO application; San Diego County Cottage Food Potable Water Requirements PDF available from DEHQ.
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — MEHKO: initial inspection required before permit issuance; annual inspections thereafter; additional fees for justified complaint response and re-inspections. CFO Class B: pre-inspection required before permit. CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon-complaint only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — DEHQ refers operators to city-specific permit/license requirements. For unincorporated county areas, state preemption (Gov. Code §51035) prohibits zoning restrictions on CFOs. MEHKO operators must verify HOA approval before applying.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

- DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES** MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery by operator/staff. CFO allows in-home direct sales and online orders. State preemption bars local sales restrictions.
- MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME** state baseline applies (1 non-family employee for CFO; MEHKO limited to 1 FTE equivalent)

Relevant county code

San Diego County Board of Supervisors MEHKO resolution (permanent program, effective January 5, 2024); Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (CFO) and §114367 (MEHKO)

RESEARCH NOTES

San Diego County is a MEHKO opt-in county (permanent program since January 5, 2024). DEHQ is the local enforcement agency for both MEHKOs and CFOs. Initial CFO applications require at least 1 product label per category; initial fee covers up to 10 label reviews. Food processor training course must be completed within 3 months of CFO approval. MEHKO operators must display their permit during hours of operation and are listed at SDFoodInfo.org.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food/cottagefood.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/food/homekitchenoperations.html>

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/deh/fhd/food/mehko/mehkofaqs.pdf>

RANK 6 · FIPS 6059 · Santa Ana

Orange County

Population 3,175,227 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

- HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED** yes — Orange County Environmental Health administers CFO Class A (direct sales, no inspection) and Class B (indirect/retail, annual inspection) registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Orange County as of research date — standard CFO program only. Application review fee applies (covers up to 10 product labels; additional labels at \$125/hr).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	Food may only be made and stored in the kitchen and an attached storage room used only for the home operation (state baseline).

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: annual inspection required for permit. Both: upon-complaint investigation triggers additional fees.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — State preemption (Gov. Code §51035) bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Orange County's permit/licensing page notes that business licenses must be handled through the city if operating within city boundaries. For unincorporated county areas, no separate home-occupation permit found for CFO.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct and indirect sales fulfilled in person, via mail, or third-party delivery within California only. Operator may hire up to 1 full-time employee. Advertisements must display county of approval, permit/registration number, and 'Made in a Home Kitchen' statement.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time employee (state baseline)

Relevant county code

none county-specific found beyond state law

RESEARCH NOTES

Orange County Environmental Health has a dedicated CFO page with clear Class A/B registration procedures. Registration/permit is valid for one year and is non-transferable; must renew if relocating. No MEHKO opt-in was found for Orange County in research. Food processor training required within 90 days of registration approval.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ochealthinfo.com>

<https://www.ocgov.com>

<https://ochealthinfo.com/food/cottage>

<https://ochealthinfo.com/services-programs/environmental-health/food-safety-programs/cottage-food>

RANK 10 · FIPS 6065 · Riverside

Riverside County

Population 2,429,487 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Riverside University Health System – Environmental Health administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Riverside County as of research date — standard CFO program only. State preemption bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection; complaint-based. Class B: annual inspection required for permit issuance/renewal.
----------------------------	---

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT varies by city — California Gov. Code §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Cities within Riverside County may require home occupation permits for other business aspects. No county-specific home occupation permit requirement identified for CFOs in unincorporated areas.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct/indirect sales within California only. State baseline applies. Operator may hire up to 1 full-time employee.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 full-time employee (state baseline)

Relevant county code

none county-specific found beyond state law

RESEARCH NOTES

Riverside County follows the standard California CFO framework. No MEHKO opt-in was confirmed based on available research. Riverside University Health System (ruhealth.org) is the local enforcement agency for both CFO registrations/permits and food safety. State law preempts local zoning from restricting CFOs.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.ruhealth.org>

<https://countyofriverside.us>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

<https://www.ruhealth.org>

RANK 14 · FIPS 6071 · San Bernardino

San Bernardino County

Population 2,180,563 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS) administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. All CFOs must first obtain local planning/zoning approval: for incorporated areas, a Home Occupation Permit from the city planning department; for unincorporated areas, an Exemption Letter from San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Services. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for San Bernardino County as of research date.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection; inspection only upon complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit issuance; annual inspection thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — All CFOs in San Bernardino County must obtain planning/zoning approval before EHS registration. In incorporated cities: a Home Occupation Permit and business license from the city planning department. In unincorporated county areas: an Exemption Letter from San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Services. Requirements vary by jurisdiction.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct/indirect sales within California only; state baseline applies. Up to 1 full-time equivalent employee (not family/household member) allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 full-time equivalent (not counting family/household members) — state baseline

Relevant county code

San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Services (Exemption Letter requirement for unincorporated areas); EHS CFO program documentation

RESEARCH NOTES

San Bernardino County is notable for requiring planning/zoning approval BEFORE submitting the EHS registration application — both incorporated and unincorporated area operators must obtain this. For unincorporated areas, the requirement is an 'Exemption Letter' from County Code Enforcement (not a full permit). Food processor training required within 90 days of EHS approval. EHS has three office locations (San Bernardino, Hesperia, Rancho Cucamonga).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph>

<https://www.sbcounty.gov>

<https://ehs.sbcounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/97/Programs/Food/CottageFoodOps/cottage-food-operations-faq.pdf>

<https://ehs.sbcounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/97/Programs/Food/CottageFoodOps/cottage-food-registration-and-permitting.pdf>

RANK 18 · FIPS 6085 · San Jose

Santa Clara County

Population 1,916,831 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · HIGH

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) administers both CFO Class A/B registrations/permits and the MEHKO program, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 14, 2023. Both programs are active and accepting applications. A residence may only have one CFO or one MEHKO. CFO proof of zoning approval from local city is required before operating but need not be submitted to DEH. LLCs, Corporations, and Partnerships cannot obtain CFO permits.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon complaint only. CFO Class B: one routine annual inspection. MEHKO: initial onsite kitchen evaluation required before permit issuance; routine inspection scheduled after permit approval.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — Santa Clara County DEH requires CFO operators to obtain local city zoning approval before operating, though proof need not be submitted to DEH. The specific permit type and cost depends on the city (San Jose, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, etc.). For unincorporated Santa Clara County, contact county planning.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct/indirect sales within California only (state baseline). MEHKO permits on-site dining, pickup, and delivery. MEHKO: food must be prepared, cooked, and served same day. MEHKO may not operate at farmers markets or temporary events.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time equivalent for CFO (state baseline); MEHKO limits TBD per county ordinance

Relevant county code

Santa Clara County MEHKO Ordinance (approved March 14, 2023); Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (CFO) and §114367 (MEHKO)

RESEARCH NOTES

Santa Clara County is a MEHKO opt-in county; MEHKO permits issued since March 14, 2023. Application fee: \$446; annual permit fee: \$652. These fees were waived through March 14, 2025 due to CDPH grant. MEHKO and CFO permits are mutually exclusive at one residence. Veterans may be exempt from CFO permit fee but not application review fee. CFO permits valid for one year; non-transferable. Key distinction: MEHKOs may prepare potentially hazardous foods but cannot make food in advance (same-day only) and cannot operate at farmers markets or temporary events.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://cpd.sccgov.org/microenterprise-home-kitchen-operations-mehko>

<https://deh.santaclaracounty.gov/food-and-retail/compliance-retail-food-operations/apply-cottage-food-operations-permit>

<https://cpd.sccgov.org/cottage-food-operations-cfo>

RANK 20 · FIPS 6001 · Oakland

Alameda County

Population 1,663,823 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (ACDEH) administers both CFO Class A/B registrations/permits and the MEHKO program. CFO applicants must obtain approval from both ACDEH and the City Planning Department. MEHKO permit application fee is \$696; initial inspection required before permit issuance. Note: City of Berkeley has its own environmental health department and administers its own CFO/MEHKO program.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No animals inside kitchen/dining areas during MEHKO operations (MEHKO SOP requirement). State baseline applies for CFOs.
WATER SUPPLY	Private well users must submit water testing results with CFO application. Municipal water: state baseline applies.
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon complaint only. CFO Class B: annual inspection. MEHKO: initial inspection required before permit issuance; routine inspections scheduled thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — CFO operators must obtain approval from the City Planning Department before ACDEH registration. Requirements vary by city. For unincorporated Alameda County, contact the county planning department. City of Berkeley has its own program and is excluded from ACDEH jurisdiction.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	CFO: direct/indirect sales within California only. MEHKO: on-site dining, pickup, delivery by operator/staff. MEHKO food must be prepared and delivered same day. State preemption bars local restriction of CFOs.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time equivalent for CFO (state baseline); MEHKO: 1 non-family employee (county ordinance per MEHKO SOP — max 40 hr/week)

Relevant county code

Alameda County Ordinance 6.68 (MEHKO); Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (CFO)

RESEARCH NOTES

Alameda County is a MEHKO opt-in county. MEHKO permit fee: \$696 (initial). ACDEH holds free monthly information sessions (first Wednesday, 9-10am). City of Berkeley operates its own separate EH program and is excluded from ACDEH jurisdiction. CFO applicants must obtain city planning approval before ACDEH registration. MEHKO governed by Alameda County Ordinance 6.68.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.acphd.org>

<https://www.acgov.org>

<https://deh.acgov.org/operations/home-based-food-business>

https://deh.acgov.org/operations-assets/docs/cottagefood/MEHKO_APP_SOP.pdf

RANK 24 · FIPS 6067 · —

Sacramento County

Population 1,579,211 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. Operators must also comply with any city-specific requirements in the city where the business is located. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Sacramento County as of research date — standard CFO program only. CFO applications require a Business License.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection; upon complaint only. Class B: inspection included as part of initial permit and annual renewal (\$513 includes inspection).
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — Sacramento County EMD notes that the CFO operator is responsible for any city permits, licenses, or registrations where the business is located — these must be submitted with the CFO application. For unincorporated Sacramento County, no separate county home occupation permit identified for CFOs.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct/indirect sales within California only. Permit valid for one location; must apply for new permit if operator moves.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 full-time equivalent (state baseline)

Relevant county code

Sacramento County EMD CFO program; Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

RESEARCH NOTES

Sacramento County EMD requires a Business License to be included with the CFO application. Class A fee: \$297 initial and renewal. Class B fee: \$513 initial and renewal (includes home inspection). Product changes/additions require a separate \$73 request. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed. The application is processed through MyHD portal. Sacramento County processes CFO applications only for locations within the county — operators outside should apply with their own county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://dhs.saccounty.gov>

<https://www.saccounty.gov>

<https://emd.saccounty.gov/EH/FoodProtect-RetailFood/Pages/CottageFood.aspx>

RANK 38 · FIPS 6013 · Martinez

Contra Costa County

Population 1,162,648 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Contra Costa County adopted a MEHKO ordinance (Ordinance 2024-05) approved by the Board of Supervisors on June 20, 2024, effective July 1, 2024 — initially as a two-year pilot, subsequently codified as Article 413-3.20 of the County Ordinance Code. Contra Costa Health (CCH) Environmental Health Division is the permitting authority for both CFOs and MEHKOs throughout the county (both incorporated and unincorporated areas). Only one MEHKO may operate per residence.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS state baseline applies

WATER SUPPLY state baseline applies

HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — MEHKO: initial inspection before permit issuance; annual inspections (or more frequently for cause). CFO Class B: initial inspection; annual inspection. CFO Class A: no routine inspection; upon-complaint only.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — State preemption (Gov. Code §51035) bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Cities within Contra Costa County may require home occupation permits for other aspects of the business. MEHKO operators must comply with all operational requirements in Ordinance 2024-05 and CCH regulations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	MEHKO: meals for dine-in, take-out, and delivery; MEHKO may also serve as a commissary for permitted food carts. CFO: direct/indirect sales within California only. Delivery must comply with Cal. Health & Safety Code §114367.5. MEHKO permit must not be used as outdoor advertising.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	MEHKO: all participating persons must obtain Contra Costa County Food Handler Certification within 30 days of joining. State baseline (1 FTE) for CFO.

Relevant county code

Contra Costa County Ordinance Code Article 413-3.20 (MEHKO, eff. July 1, 2024); Cal. Health & Safety Code §§114367–114367.6

RESEARCH NOTES

Contra Costa County is a MEHKO opt-in county — the ordinance applies countywide (both incorporated and unincorporated areas), making it broader than some other CA MEHKO adoptions. The MEHKO is capped at 30 meals/day, 90 meals/week, and \$100,000 gross annual sales. MEHKO permit year runs March 1 through February 28/29; renewable annually; not transferable. All persons at the MEHKO must get Contra Costa County Food Handler Certification within 30 days of joining the operation. CCH annual inspection required.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.cchealth.org>

<https://www.cchealth.org/about-contra-costa-health/divisions/environmental-health/home-kitchens>

<https://contra-costa.legistar.com/View.ashx?GUID=2B7962AC-CDFC-4451-8FAB-32732456A5AE&ID=12958845&M=F>

RANK 47 · FIPS 6019 · Fresno

Fresno County

Population 1,008,280 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Fresno County Environmental Health Division administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Fresno County as of research date — standard CFO program only. State preemption bars local zoning restrictions on CFOs (Gov. Code §51035).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	state baseline applies
WATER SUPPLY	state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	state baseline applies
FOOD STORAGE	state baseline applies

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection; upon complaint. Class B: annual inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	varies by city — State preemption bars local restriction of CFOs. Cities within Fresno County (Fresno, Clovis, etc.) may have home occupation permit requirements for other business aspects.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE varies by city

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Direct/indirect sales within California only. State baseline applies.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 full-time equivalent (state baseline)

Relevant county code

none county-specific found beyond state law

RESEARCH NOTES

Fresno County follows California state baseline for cottage food. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed. Fresno County Environmental Health Division is the local enforcement agency. State preemption is strong.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 62 · FIPS 6029 · Bakersfield

Kern County

Population 906,883 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations); two-tier Class A/B system · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Must be operator's primary residence. Kern County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A (direct sales only, up to \$75,000/year); Class B (direct and indirect including restaurants/markets, up to \$150,000/year). Home occupation permit from local zoning required as part of application.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation applies; not specifically addressed in county guidance
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; state baseline applies
HANDWASHING	Cottage Food Operator Training required within 3 months of registration/ permitting; food handler certificates required for all persons preparing or packaging CFO products (ANSI-accredited)
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state Approved Foods List requirements

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B requires home kitchen inspection before permit issuance. Class A is self-certified. Subsequent inspections upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Kern County requires a copy of home occupation permit from local zoning as part of CFO application. If in incorporated area: contact City Planning department (e.g., City of Bakersfield Planning). If in unincorporated area: contact Kern County Planning department at (661) 862-8600. A Fictitious Business Name (FBN) Statement or LLC/Articles of Organization also required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail or third-party delivery permitted). Class B: direct and indirect through restaurants and food markets. Both classes must remain within California. Annual caps: Class A \$75,000; Class B \$150,000.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-family non-household full-time equivalent employee

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Kern County Environmental Health Department CFO program

RESEARCH NOTES

Kern County Public Health has a dedicated CFO page confirming the two-tier system, fee structure (fiscal year July 1-June 30), and explicit requirement for home occupation permit from local zoning as part of the CFO application. MEHKO status: Kern County does not appear on the list of California jurisdictions that have opted into the MEHKO program (as of mid-2025, 18 jurisdictions had opted in; Kern County not listed). CFO is the applicable program for Kern County cottage food operations.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.kernpublichealth.com/permitting-compliance/food/restaurants-markets-kitchens/cottage-food-operations>

<https://www.kerncounty.com/planning>

<https://www.kerncounty.com>

<https://www.kernpublichealth.com/permitting-compliance/food/restaurants-markets-kitchens/cottage-food-operations>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 70 · FIPS 6075 · San Francisco

San Francisco County

Population 851,036 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations); Class A/B system · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — San Francisco is a consolidated city-county. CFO permits are administered by the SF Department of Public Health (SFDPH). Class A (direct sales, up to \$75,000/year); Class B (direct and indirect, up to \$150,000/year). Home occupation permit from SF Planning Department required as part of CFO application. Zoning preempted by state law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) for CFO purposes.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation; not specifically addressed
WATER SUPPLY	Municipal water (SF Public Utilities Commission) standard
HANDWASHING	Cottage Food Operator Training within 3 months; food handler certificate required
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state approved foods list

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B requires initial kitchen inspection. Class A is self-certified. Complaint-based thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — San Francisco Planning Department administers home occupation authorizations. State law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs, but a home occupation verification or accessory use determination may still be required as part of the SFPDPH CFO application process. Contact SF Planning at (628) 652-7600.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail/third-party delivery permitted within California). Class B: direct plus indirect (restaurants, markets). \$75,000/\$150,000 annual caps. California only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-family non-household full-time equivalent employee

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Cal. Gov. Code §51035; SF Health Code Article 22B

RESEARCH NOTES

San Francisco is a consolidated city-county. MEHKO status: San Francisco County does NOT have an active MEHKO program as of mid-2025 (it was specifically cited in research as a large county without a MEHKO program). CFO (cottage food operations) is the applicable pathway. State law preempts local zoning restrictions for CFOs under Cal. Gov. Code §51035. SFPDPH administers CFO permits. San Francisco has a Business Registration Certificate requirement for all businesses including home-based.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sfdph.org>

<https://sfplanning.org>

<https://sf.gov>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

<https://www.thefoodcorridor.com/blog/mehkos-2026-2/>

RANK 72 · FIPS 6111 · Ventura

Ventura County

Population 842,009 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations);
Class A/B system · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Ventura County Resource Management Agency (Environmental Health Division) administers CFO permits. Class A (direct sales only, up to \$75,000/year); Class B (direct and indirect, up to \$150,000/year). Both classes require proper application with required documentation and fees submitted to Environmental Health Division.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation; not specifically stated in county materials
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Cottage Food Operator Training required within 3 months; food handler certificates required for all persons preparing/packaging
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state approved foods list

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B: home kitchen inspection required. Class A: self-certified. Complaint-based thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — State law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. However, for incorporated cities in Ventura County (Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Oxnard, etc.), check with the city's planning department. For unincorporated areas: contact Ventura County Planning Division. The county CFO page does not specify a separate home occupation permit requirement but standard California practice includes zoning verification.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Class A: direct sales via in person, phone, internet; mail/third-party delivery within California. Class B: direct plus indirect (restaurants, markets).
\$75,000/\$150,000 annual caps. California only.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 non-family non-household full-time equivalent employee

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Cal. Gov. Code §51035; Ventura County Environmental Health Division

RESEARCH NOTES

Ventura County RMA Environmental Health has a dedicated CFO page confirming the Class A/B system, application process, fees (see CFO Fees PDF), and required documentation including CFO flowchart. Applications submitted by mail or in person at Environmental Health Division public service counter, or via Electronic Plan Submittal Portal. MEHKO status: Ventura County does not appear on the list of California MEHKO opt-in jurisdictions (as of mid-2025). CFO is the applicable program.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.venturacounty.gov/health>

<https://www.venturacounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.ventura.org>

<https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/environmental-health/cottage-home-food-operations/>

RANK 80 · FIPS 6077 · Stockton

San Joaquin County

Population 779,445 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations); Class A/B system · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A: \$186 fee, direct sales only, up to current state cap (\$75,000). Class B: \$486 fee, direct and indirect sales, up to \$150,000. Food handler course (California-approved) required within 3 months. Max 1 non-family/household full-time employee.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Standard sanitation; no specific county guidance found

WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; state baseline
HANDWASHING	Food handler course required within 3 months of approval; California-approved provider
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state approved foods list

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B: kitchen inspection required. Class A: self-certified. Complaint-based thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — State law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. For incorporated cities (Stockton, Lodi, Manteca, Tracy, etc.), check with the city's planning department for any supplemental requirements. Unincorporated areas: contact San Joaquin County Community Development Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail/third-party delivery permitted within California). Class B: direct and indirect (restaurants, markets). Annual caps: Class A \$75,000; Class B \$150,000. California only.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 non-family non-household full-time equivalent employee

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department CFO program

RESEARCH NOTES

San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department has a specific CFO registration/permitting form (directly retrieved) confirming Class A (\$186) and Class B (\$486) fees, the 3-month food handler training requirement, labeling requirements, and the 1 non-family full-time employee maximum. MEHKO status: San Joaquin County is not listed among California MEHKO opt-in jurisdictions (as of mid-2025). CFO is the applicable program.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sjgov.org/environmental-health>

<https://www.sjgov.org/community-development>

<https://www.sjgov.org>

<https://www.sjgov.org/docs/default-source/environmental-health-documents/food-and-restaurants/cfo-registration-permitting-form.pdf>

RANK 86 · FIPS 6081 · Redwood City

San Mateo County

Population 754,250 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations); Cal. Health & Safety Code §113825 (MEHKO) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Two pathways: (1) CFO Class A/B under §113758; (2) MEHKO under §113825 — San Mateo County has permanently authorized MEHKOs (ordinance approved September 12, 2023). MEHKO annual permit fee: \$1,108 (effective November 2024). MEHKO: 30 meals/day, 60 meals/week, \$100,000 annual cap, food must be prepared/cooked/served same day.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Standard sanitation; MEHKO requires food safety compliance
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water; public municipal supply standard in most of the county
HANDWASHING	MEHKO: Food Safety Manager certification required + food handler card for all food handlers. CFO: food handler certificate required within 3 months.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard per state approved foods list (CFO) or California Retail Food Code (MEHKO)

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — MEHKO requires initial inspection before permit issuance. CFO Class B requires initial inspection. Routine inspections may follow.
---------------------	--

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT conditional — For MEHKO: state law prevents cities/counties from requiring separate home occupation permits for MEHKOs — only local health department permit required. For CFO: state GOV §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions. Check with specific city (Redwood City, San Mateo, Daly City, South San Francisco, etc.) for any supplemental CFO or business license requirements. MEHKO guidance says also check with city for additional requirements.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP yes

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES CFO Class A: direct sales only (\$75,000 cap). CFO Class B: direct + indirect (\$150,000 cap). MEHKO: direct-to-consumer only (dine-in, take-out, delivery); cannot sell at farmers markets or to food facilities; \$100,000 annual cap.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 non-family/household full-time equivalent (both CFO and MEHKO)

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (CFO); §113825 (MEHKO); San Mateo County MEHKO Ordinance (September 12, 2023)

RESEARCH NOTES

San Mateo County is one of the most MEHKO-forward counties in California. After a 2-year pilot starting July 2021, the Board of Supervisors permanently authorized MEHKOs on September 12, 2023. MEHKO annual permit fee is \$1,108 (effective November 2024; waived until October 2024 for pandemic relief). Application via MyEHS Portal (smchealth.org/myehs). MEHKO requires Food Safety Manager certification and food handler cards for all handlers. For CFO: separate pathway still available. State law prevents requiring home occupation permits for MEHKOs.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.smchealth.org>

<https://planning.smcgov.org>

<https://www.smcgov.org>

<https://www.smchealth.org/microkitchens-mehko>

<https://mehko.org/get-your-mehko-approved-in-san-mateo/>

RANK 124 · FIPS 6099 · Modesto

Stanislaus County

Population 552,063 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Stanislaus County Environmental Resources, no inspection. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection required, local planning/zoning approval required for both classes.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation
WATER SUPPLY	Kitchen must be connected to approved water source; documented in Class B supplemental application
HANDWASHING	Food handler training required within 3 months of registration/permit
FOOD STORAGE	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no inspection required except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit issued and annual inspection thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Stanislaus County CFO application packet explicitly states: 'Most planning departments will require a home occupation permit and a business license be obtained for both Class A and Class B CFOs.' Operators must obtain approval from the Stanislaus County Planning Department (209-525-6330) or local city planning department depending on property location. Zoning criteria include parking, noise, traffic control, density.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Class A: direct sales only — at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local shops and restaurants. Both limited to within Stanislaus County and California. One full-time equivalent non-family employee allowed.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME One full-time equivalent non-family/household employee allowed

Relevant county code

Stanislaus County Environmental Resources CFO Program. Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758.

RESEARCH NOTES

Stanislaus County CFO application packet PDF retrieved directly from stancounty.com (official county website). Explicitly confirms home occupation permit and business license required for both Class A and Class B CFOs. Planning Department contact: 209-525-6330. Environmental Resources contact: 209-525-6700. Class B requires annual inspection. Zoning factors include parking, noise, traffic, density. Confidence high: official county documents directly retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.stancounty.com>

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/pdf/cottage-food-operations/cfo-class-a-packet.pdf>

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/pdf/california-homemade-food-act-faq.pdf>

RANK 144 · FIPS 6097 · Santa Rosa

Sonoma County

Population 488,436 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Sonoma County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection. Local zoning/ planning criteria apply to both classes. Septic system requirements apply if not on municipal sewer.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation

WATER SUPPLY	Must demonstrate kitchen connected to approved water source. If on septic system: Permit Sonoma has specific septic requirements per county Ordinance #6498 amendments
HANDWASHING	Food handler training required within 3 months of registration/permit
FOOD STORAGE	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no inspection except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit and annually thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Sonoma County Environmental Health explicitly states operators must contact Permit Sonoma for specific zoning requirements (building department). Zoning criteria include parking, noise, traffic control, density. Class A and B CFOs must contact local city or county planning department. Permit Sonoma (permitsonoma.org) governs unincorporated Sonoma County. For properties within cities (Santa Rosa, Petaluma, Sonoma, etc.), contact the respective city planning department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales at residence, farmers markets, bake sales, farm stands, community events. Class B: adds wholesale to local shops and restaurants. Both limited to within Sonoma County/California. One full-time equivalent non-family employee allowed. To sell at community events, a temporary food facility permit required.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One full-time equivalent non-family/household employee allowed

Relevant county code

Sonoma County Environmental Health CFO Program. Permit Sonoma (zoning). Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758.

RESEARCH NOTES

Sonoma County official Environmental Health page and Permit Sonoma pages both retrieved. Environmental Health page explicitly states operators must contact Permit Sonoma for zoning requirements and lists parking, noise, traffic, density as factors. Permit Sonoma has dedicated septic requirements for cottage foods (Ordinance #6498). County also allows MEHKO (Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operations) under AB 626 per Permit Sonoma page. Confidence high: official county sources retrieved.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.sonomacounty.gov/health>

<https://sonomacounty.ca.gov>

[https://sonomacounty.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/environmental-health/programs-and-services/food-safety-program/cottage-food-operations-\(cfos\)](https://sonomacounty.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/public-health/environmental-health/programs-and-services/food-safety-program/cottage-food-operations-(cfos))

<https://permitsonoma.org/divisions/engineeringandconstruction/wellandsepticssystems/septicssystems/cottagefoodssepticrequirements>

RANK 148 · FIPS 6107 · Visalia

Tulare County

Population 473,446 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Tulare County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection required. Local zoning/planning approval required for both classes.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation
WATER SUPPLY	Kitchen must be connected to approved water source
HANDWASHING	Food handler training required within 3 months of registration/permit
FOOD STORAGE	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no inspection except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit and annual inspection thereafter.
----------------------------	--

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — California cottage food law requires local planning/zoning approval for CFOs. Tulare County planning department governs unincorporated areas; cities within the county (Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, etc.) have their own planning departments. Operators should contact Tulare County Resource Management Agency (Planning) for unincorporated areas or the relevant city planning department. Home occupation permit and business license typically required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local shops and restaurants. Both limited to within Tulare County and California. One full-time equivalent non-family employee allowed.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One full-time equivalent non-family/household employee allowed

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758. Tulare County Environmental Health and Planning departments.

RESEARCH NOTES

Tulare County follows California state CFO framework (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758). No county government URL or county health URL provided in input. Tulare County has its own Environmental Health department administering CFO registrations/permits. Planning/zoning approval required per CA state law. No Tulare County-specific CFO pages retrieved from official sources. Confidence medium: California state law confirmed; Tulare County-specific local rules not retrieved from official county source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

- https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf
- <https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/california/>

Solano County

Population 450,995 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales, annual cap ~\$86,206 as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 cap) operations. Solano County Environmental Health requires annual registration/permit. Class A: no home inspection required. Class B: home inspection required. Only state-approved non-TCS foods permitted. Food safety training required every 3 years. No smoking in kitchen; no pets or children in kitchen during production. Local Fairfield/Vacaville/etc. home-based business license may also be required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard water supply requirements per Environmental Health.
HANDWASHING	Required per California Food Code.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS, shelf-stable foods only per state-approved list.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Class A: no inspection required. Class B: inspection required before permit. Inspections may occur upon complaint for both classes.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Solano County Environmental Health issues CFO annual registration/permit (Class A ~\$96/yr; Class B ~\$316/yr per 2013 data, current fees may differ — call 707-784-6765). Local city home-based business license also required (e.g., Benicia requires home-based business license in addition to county CFO permit). California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Class A: direct to consumer sales only (in-person, online, delivery within California). Class B: may also sell to retail stores and restaurants. Out-of-county sales require permission from other counties. All sales within California.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Only one non-family employee permitted under state law.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); Solano County Environmental Health Food Program (CFO permits).

RESEARCH NOTES

Solano County Environmental Health has a dedicated CFO page confirming Class A and Class B permit structure, annual renewal requirement, and inspection rules. Fee data from 2013 (\$96 Class A, \$316 Class B) — current fees likely higher; call 707-784-6765. MEHKO program also available for full meal service. Local city business license also required (confirmed via 2013 news article about Benicia operator). State preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs (GOV §51035).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.solanocounty.gov/health>

<https://www.solanocounty.com>

https://app.solanocounty.gov/depts/rm/environmental_health/consumer/food_program/cottage_food_operations.asp

<https://www.solanocounty.gov/government/resource-management/environmental-health/home-based-food-operation>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 157 · FIPS 6083 · Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara County

Population 445,213 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales, ~\$86,206 annual cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 cap) operations. Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services (EHS) administers CFO registrations/permits. Class A registration fee \$199; Class B health permit fee \$271. Class A: no initial inspection; Class B: initial and annual inspections required. Only state-approved non-TCS foods permitted (per CDPH approved foods list). Food worker certification required within 3 months of registration. No pets or children in kitchen during production; no smoking.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard water requirements per Environmental Health Services.
HANDWASHING	Required per California Food Code.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved list.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Class A: no initial inspection; only upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit issuance, then annual inspections. Complaint-based inspections for both classes.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Santa Barbara County EHS requires Class A registration (\$199/yr) or Class B health permit (\$271/yr). Additionally, local city or county planning department approval required: Home Occupation Permit or business license from local city planning department, or Exemption Letter from county Code Enforcement if in unincorporated areas. Contact SB County EHS: 800-442-2283. California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct-to-consumer only within California (in-person, online, delivery). Class B: direct and indirect sales to retailers/restaurants within California. Out-of-county sales require permission from destination county EHS agency.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under state law.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Santa Barbara County EHS CFO program (ehs.sbcounty.gov).

RESEARCH NOTES

Santa Barbara County EHS FAQ PDF directly confirms Class A (\$199) and Class B (\$271) fees, inspection requirements, and planning department approval requirements. Class B annual inspection is notable. Local planning/zoning approval required in addition to EHS registration. California state law preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations (GOV §51035). Current official SBC EHS website URL (sbcounty.gov/phd) was returning errors; the EHS subdomain (ehs.sbcounty.gov) was the working source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.countyofsb.org>

<https://ehs.sbcounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/97/Programs/Food/CottageFoodOps/cottage-food-operations-faq.pdf>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 160 · FIPS 6053 · Salinas

Monterey County

Population 437,609 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales only) and Class B (direct and indirect sales including retail/wholesale/mail order) operations. Monterey County Environmental Health administers CFO applications. Class A: products cannot be sold to retail food facilities, wholesale, or by mail order; internet sales must be picked up or delivered in person within county. Class B: can be sold to retail food facilities, wholesale, or by mail order, but products cannot be sold out-of-state; internet sales must be picked up or delivered in person within county. Annual sales caps (state, inflation-adjusted): Class A ~\$86,206; Class B ~\$172,411 (2025). Food safety training required.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production per state law.
WATER SUPPLY	Standard water requirements per Environmental Health.
HANDWASHING	Required per California Food Code.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved CDPH list.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Class A: no initial inspection. Class B: initial inspection and annual inspections. Both classes subject to inspection upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Monterey County Environmental Health requires Class A or Class B CFO application. In addition, local city or county planning approval required. Operators in unincorporated areas must obtain county planning/zoning approval; those in incorporated cities (Salinas, Monterey, etc.) must comply with city-specific rules. State law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct to consumer only; internet sales must be in-person pickup or delivery within county. Class B: retail/wholesale/mail order allowed within California; internet sales pickup/delivery within county. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under state law.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Monterey County Environmental Health Consumer Health Protection CFO program.

RESEARCH NOTES

Monterey County Environmental Health has a dedicated page with Class A and Class B CFO applications, confirming county administers CFO permits. Notable restriction: Class A internet sales must be in-person pickup or delivery within county (stricter than some CA counties). Class B allows mail order and retail. State preempts local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035). Local planning department approval also required in addition to EHS registration.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov>

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-a-h/health/environmental-health/general/applications-forms-and-permits>

<https://www.countyofmonterey.gov/government/departments-a-h/health/environmental-health/consumer-health-protection/food-application>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 173 · FIPS 6061 · Auburn

Placer County

Population 406,608 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales only) and Class B (direct and indirect sales) operations. Placer County Environmental Health Department (3091 County Center Drive #180, Auburn, CA 95603; 530-745-2300) administers CFO applications. All CFOs must secure a Business License and approval from local city or county Planning Department in addition to Environmental Health permit/registration. Private well users must complete Water Facility Testing Agreement with quarterly/annual testing. Production must occur in home kitchen; no infants or pets in kitchen during production; no smoking in CFO areas; maximum one full-time employee.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No infants or pets allowed in kitchen during food production.
WATER SUPPLY	Private well users must have Water Facility Testing Agreement with Placer County and quarterly/annual testing.
HANDWASHING	Required per California Food Code.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved CDPH list. Storage in kitchen or dedicated storage room.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	upon-complaint — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: initial and ongoing inspections. Both subject to inspection upon consumer complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Placer County Environmental Health requires CFO registration (Class A) or permit (Class B). Additionally, all CFOs must obtain a Business License AND approval from local city or county Planning Department before operating. For unincorporated Placer County, county Planning Department approval needed. For incorporated cities (Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, etc.), city-specific planning approval needed. State law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct-to-consumer sales only. Class B: retail and wholesale sales also permitted. All sales within California. Label must include 'Made in a Home Kitchen', Registration/Permit number, city/town, and county (Placer).
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Maximum one full-time employee.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); Placer County Environmental Health Food Protection Program (CFO permits).

RESEARCH NOTES

Placer County CFO permit application form confirmed from official document (though hosted on Air Quality district subdomain). Application clearly confirms Class A (registration) and Class B (permit) structure, business license requirement, planning department approval requirement, private well water testing, pet/infant exclusion, and one full-time employee limit. Label must include Registration/Permit number and 'Issued by Placer County'. Business license and planning department approval explicitly required by application.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.placer.ca.gov>

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/3409/Cottage-Foods>

<https://www.placerair.org/DocumentCenter/View/9449/Permit-Application-for-Cottage-Food-Operation-PDF>

RANK 246 · FIPS 6047 · Merced

Merced County

Population 282,290 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Class A (direct sales, \$75,000 cap) and Class B (direct and indirect, \$150,000 cap); annual registration/permit required; food handler card required · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from Merced County Environmental Health; food handler card required within 3 months; Class B requires initial and annual kitchen inspection; \$75,000/\$150,000 annual cap; no TCS foods
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in available sources; general sanitation and clean kitchen required
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing; Class B inspection will verify
FOOD STORAGE	CDPH-approved non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	depends-on-volume — Class A: inspection upon consumer complaint or reported foodborne illness only. Class B: initial inspection before permit issuance and annual inspections, plus complaint-based
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — California Homemade Food Act (AB 1616) requires planning/zoning approval from local city or county planning department for all CFOs. Merced County planning department approval must be obtained; some municipalities may also require city business license
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (at home, farmers markets, events). Class B: direct and indirect sales including retail stores and online. Max 1 non-family FTE employee

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME 1 full-time equivalent (excluding family or household members)

Relevant county code

Merced County Environmental Health CFO Registration/Permit; countyofmerced.com/1636/Applications-Forms-Permits

RESEARCH NOTES

Merced County confirmed: county has its own CFO registration/permitting form and Environmental Health application process. Zoning approval from planning department required per CA law. Class A \$75,000 cap, Class B \$150,000 cap. Food handler card required within 3 months of approval.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.countyofmerced.com>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/31479/Cottage-Food-Application>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/1636/Applications-Forms-Permits>

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/DocumentCenter/View/5348/Cottage-Food-Law-FAQs-2012>

RANK 247 · FIPS 6079 · San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo County

Population 281,712 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Class A (\$75,000 direct sales) and Class B (\$150,000 direct and indirect); annual registration/permit required; food handler card required · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — CDPH-approved food list only; annual Class A registration or Class B permit required from SLO County Environmental Health; food handler card required; Class B requires inspection; \$75,000/\$150,000 cap
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	General sanitation required; kitchen must be clean and pest-free
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water at residence
HANDWASHING	Standard handwashing required
FOOD STORAGE	CDPH-approved non-TCS foods stored in sanitary conditions

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	depends-on-volume — Class A: complaint-based only. Class B: initial and annual inspections
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — CA Homemade Food Act requires planning/zoning approval from SLO County Planning Department for all CFOs. Class A self-certification checklist and zoning approval required. Some jurisdictions may also require city business license
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only. Class B: direct and indirect including retail. Max 1 non-family FTE employee
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	1 full-time equivalent (excluding family or household members)

Relevant county code

San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health CFO registration/permit process

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern-status county. Same CA CFO baseline as Merced County. SLO County is coastal Central California. County environmental health handles registration/permitting. No direct SLO County-specific page found in research.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 257 · FIPS 6087 · Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz County

Population 268,571 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A (direct sales, cap ~\$86,206/year) or Class B (direct+indirect, cap ~\$172,411/year). Must register with Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department. Requires CA food handler card within 90 days of permit. Class B requires prior home kitchen inspection. Annual permit renewal required. Only CDPH-approved foods allowed.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified by county; state law requires sanitary food preparation area
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities; CA food handler card required
FOOD STORAGE	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods on CDPH approved list only; no refrigerated products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B: inspection required before permit issued; Class A: no routine inspection (self-certification checklist); either class subject to inspection upon complaint
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning from restricting CFOs. Santa Cruz County may require a local business license for unincorporated areas. Must obtain local business license from Santa Cruz County or respective city.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (including online with local delivery/pickup or shipping within CA). Class B: direct + indirect sales (wholesale to retailers within county, with some reciprocal agreements). No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One full-time non-family employee maximum (state law)

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Department permit

RESEARCH NOTES

Santa Cruz County follows California's two-tier CFO system under Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758. No specific Santa Cruz County EHS cottage food page was retrieved but the system is uniform statewide. California state law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Caps are CPI-adjusted annually (~\$86K Class A, ~\$172K Class B as of 2025). No direct Santa Cruz County .gov URL found for cottage food — confidence medium based on state baseline applicability.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

<https://ucanr.edu/site/cottage-foods/two-tiered-permit-registration-system>

RANK 268 · FIPS 6041 · San Rafael

Marin County

Population 260,485 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Class A (direct sales only, cap \$75,000/year per Marin County EHS). Class B (direct + indirect/wholesale, cap \$150,000/year). Annual permit renewal required. CA food handler card required within 90 days of permit. Label samples required with application. Local business license required. Class B requires prior inspection.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Not specified by county; state law requires sanitary food preparation area

WATER SUPPLY Potable water supply required

HANDWASHING CA food handler card required within 90 days of permit

FOOD STORAGE Non-TCS CDPH-approved foods only; no refrigerated products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B: inspection required before permit issued; Class A: no routine inspection; either class subject to inspection upon complaint
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — California state law (Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning from restricting CFOs. Marin County requires a local business license from the county (for unincorporated areas) or respective city. Must obtain approval from Marin County Environmental Health Services before selling.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only including online (local delivery/pickup or shipping within CA). Class B: direct + indirect (wholesale to retailers within Marin County; reciprocal agreements may allow cross-county indirect sales). No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One full-time non-family employee maximum (state law)

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Marin County Environmental Health Services permit

RESEARCH NOTES

Marin County has a dedicated cottage food operations page at marincounty.gov (retrieved directly). Confirmed: Class A cap \$75,000, Class B cap \$150,000, annual permit, food handler card required within 90 days, business license required, EHS contact at 415-473-6907. Page last updated December 11, 2024. Confidence high due to direct county .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/cda/env-health-svcs/prgm-food/cottage-food-op>

<https://www.marincounty.org>

<https://www.marincounty.gov/departments/cda/env-health-svcs/prgm-food/cottage-food-op>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

Yolo County

Population 217,141 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — California two-tier system. Class A (direct sales only): requires registration with Yolo County Environmental Health, annual renewal, no routine inspection. Class B (direct + retail): requires permit from Yolo County Environmental Health, annual inspection. Both require: food handler safety certificate (within 60 days of opening), sample labels for each unique item, and application fee. Only state-approved low-risk non-TCS foods allowed. Sales cap: Class A ~\$86,206/year; Class B ~\$172,411/year (CPI-adjusted annually). State zoning preemption (GOV §51035) bars local restrictions on cottage food operations.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state-level pet restriction in California cottage food statute, though standard GMP practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement for California Class A cottage food operations. Class B permit requirements may include additional documentation.
HANDWASHING	Food handler safety certificate required (within 60 days of opening for business). Certificate demonstrates food safety training including hygiene.
FOOD STORAGE	Only state-approved non-TCS foods allowed. Standard GMP safe storage practices. Products must be non-potentially hazardous.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection (registration only). Class B: annual inspection by Yolo County Environmental Health required. Both classes: inspection upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Yolo County and municipalities (Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento) may still have general home occupation requirements for business registration. Contact Yolo County Planning or relevant city for home occupation details beyond the cottage food registration/permit.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales from home (with appointment), at community events, farmers markets, and online with in-state delivery/shipping. Class B: same plus retail stores and restaurants within California. No out-of-state sales. Event sales (farmers market) may require a separate Temporary Food Facility permit.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under California cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Yolo County Environmental Health Division (cottage food registration); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence: Yolo County Environmental Health has a dedicated cottage food page confirming Class A/B structure, application requirements, and that EH is regulated by California CDPH. Confirmed directly from yolocounty.gov official government source. Class A requires no inspection; Class B requires annual inspection. Food handler safety certificate required within 60 days of opening. Temporary Food Facility permit required for event/farmers market sales (separate from cottage food registration). Application fee amount not stated on page but contact EH at 530-666-8646 or ehealth@yolocounty.gov.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.yolocounty.gov/government/general-government-departments/community-services/environmental-health-division>

<https://www.yolocounty.gov/government/general-government-departments/community-services/environmental-health-division/consumer-protection-programs/food-programs/cottage-food-operations>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 317 · FIPS 6007 · Oroville

Butte County

Population 213,605 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — California two-tier cottage food system (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758). Class A (direct sales only): registration with Butte County Environmental Health; no routine inspection. Class B (retail + direct): permit with annual inspection. Food handler certification required within 60 days of opening. Only state-approved non-TCS foods allowed. Sales caps: Class A ~\$86,206/year, Class B ~\$172,411/year (CPI-adjusted). State preemption bars local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state-level pet restriction in California cottage food statute. Standard GMP practices apply.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement for California Class A cottage food operations.
HANDWASHING	Food handler safety certificate required within 60 days of opening; certificate covers handwashing and hygiene training.
FOOD STORAGE	State-approved non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage practices.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection (registration only, annual renewal). Class B: annual inspection by Butte County Environmental Health required. Inspection upon complaint for both classes.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — GOV §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions for cottage food operations. Butte County and municipalities (Chico, Oroville, Gridley) may still require general home occupation business registration. Contact Butte County Planning or relevant city for any additional home occupation permitting beyond the county Environmental Health cottage food registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales from home (with appointment), at community events, farmers markets, and online with in-state delivery/shipping. Class B: same plus retail stores and restaurants in California. Event sales may require Temporary Food Facility permit. No out-of-state sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under California cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Butte County Environmental Health (cottage food registration); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

California state baseline applies. Butte County (county seat: Oroville) was significantly affected by the 2018 Camp Fire (Paradise). No Butte County-specific cottage food page URL found in input; county health registration required at county EH. CDPH list of local EH contacts shows Butte County EH phone for cottage foods. Note county EPA/EH office may be part of the county's Community Development Department since the fire recovery reorganization.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.buttecounty.net>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

<https://www.buttecounty.net>

RANK 347 · FIPS 6017 · Placerville

El Dorado County

Population 191,713 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — California two-tier cottage food system (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758). Class A: registration with El Dorado County Environmental Health; no routine inspection; annual renewal. Class B: permit with annual inspection; allows retail sales. Food handler safety certificate required within 60 days. Only state-approved non-TCS foods. Sales caps: Class A ~\$86,206/year, Class B ~\$172,411/year (CPI-adjusted). State preemption bars local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035). El Dorado County is in the Sierra Nevada foothills east of Sacramento.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No explicit state-level pet restriction in California cottage food statute.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific private water testing requirement for Class A California cottage food.
HANDWASHING	Food handler safety certificate required within 60 days; covers handwashing and hygiene.
FOOD STORAGE	State-approved non-TCS foods only. Standard GMP storage.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection (registration only). Class B: annual inspection by El Dorado County Environmental Health. Both: inspection upon complaint.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — GOV §51035 preempts local zoning for cottage food. El Dorado County and municipalities (Placerville, South Lake Tahoe) may still require general home occupation business registration. Contact El Dorado County Planning Services or relevant city.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Class A: direct sales from home, at events, farmers markets, online (in-state only). Class B: same plus retail stores and restaurants in California. Event sales may require Temporary Food Facility permit. No out-of-state sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Only one non-family employee permitted under California cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; El Dorado County Environmental Health (cottage food registration); GOV §51035

RESEARCH NOTES

California state baseline applies. El Dorado County (county seat: Placerville) is in the Sierra Nevada foothills; popular for wine country and outdoor recreation. No El Dorado County-specific cottage food page URL found in input. California CDPH list of local EH contacts shows El Dorado County EH. Registration/permit handled through county Environmental Health Division.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 365 · FIPS 6089 · Redding

Shasta County

Population 181,852 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap (CPI-adjusted 2025). Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, requires home kitchen inspection. Must register with local county environmental health department. Food safety training (ANSI-accredited, every 3 years) required. Only state-approved foods list permitted.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Pets not allowed in food prep areas; assessed during Class B inspection.

WATER SUPPLY Potable water supply; inspected during Class B registration.

HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required; assessed during Class B inspection.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods stored in clean, sanitary conditions.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: no initial inspection. Class B: inspection required before registration. Complaint-based inspections possible for both.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — California Gov. Code §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Shasta County Environmental Health handles Class A and Class B CFO registrations. Local zoning cannot restrict qualifying cottage food operations. Shasta County permit fees and specific registration process managed by Shasta County Environmental Health Department.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only within California (including online with in-state shipping). Class B: direct and indirect sales (retail stores, restaurants) within California. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Shasta County Environmental Health cottage food registration

RESEARCH NOTES

California has a two-tier system (Class A/Class B) with county-level permit processing. Shasta County Environmental Health handles registration but county URLs were blank in input. Sales caps are CPI-adjusted annually (~\$86,206 for Class A, ~\$172,411 for Class B as of 2025). Shasta County is a smaller rural county; Class B inspection may be less common than in larger counties. MEHKO program (home meal service) operates separately and cannot run simultaneously with CFO.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 370 · FIPS 6025 · El Centro

Imperial County

Population 179,578 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap (CPI-adjusted 2025). Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, requires home kitchen inspection. Registration with Imperial County Environmental Health required. Food safety training (ANSI-accredited, every 3 years) required. Only state-approved foods list permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets not allowed in food prep areas; assessed during Class B inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water supply required.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing facilities required.
FOOD STORAGE	Non-potentially hazardous foods stored in clean, sanitary conditions.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: no initial inspection. Class B: inspection required. Complaint-based inspections possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — California Gov. Code §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Imperial County Environmental Health handles CFO registrations. No local zoning restrictions can be imposed on qualifying cottage food operations.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Class A: direct sales only within California. Class B: direct and indirect sales within California. No interstate sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Only one non-family employee permitted.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Imperial County Environmental Health cottage food registration

RESEARCH NOTES

Imperial County is a rural border county in Southern California. County URLs were blank in input. State preemption prevents local restrictions on cottage food operations. County environmental health department administers registration. Same California two-tier framework as other CA counties.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 423 · FIPS 6039 · Madera

Madera County

Population 157,243 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED conditional — California two-class system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206 cap, 2025 CPI-adjusted) requires county registration and food safety training (ANSI-accredited, every 3 years). Class B (direct and indirect to retail/restaurants, ~\$172,411 cap, 2025 CPI-adjusted) requires county registration plus home kitchen inspection. Madera County Environmental Health handles registration and permits. Only foods on the official state-approved foods list permitted.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific state restriction on pets, but pets must not be in food preparation areas per GMP.

WATER SUPPLY No specific water testing requirement under CA cottage food law.

HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required as part of cottage food operation standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Only state-approved non-PHF foods. Products must be in compliant packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: home kitchen inspection required for permit. Complaint-based enforcement possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Madera County requires a county permit/registration for cottage food operations through Environmental Health. Local zoning preempted statewide for cottage food by Cal. Gov't Code §51035. A home occupation permit under local zoning may still be required for other business activity aspects.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only, online and shipping within California. Class B: direct sales plus retail stores and restaurants. Both classes: California only, no interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted statewide.

Relevant county code

Madera County Environmental Health Cottage Food regulations; Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. California permits handled by county Environmental Health departments. Madera County Environmental Health administers cottage food permits; specific Madera County fee schedule not confirmed. No Madera County-specific cottage food code identified beyond state framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 440 · FIPS 6031 · Hanford

Kings County

Population 152,515 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	conditional — California two-class system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206 cap, 2025 CPI-adjusted) requires county registration and food safety training (ANSI-accredited, every 3 years). Class B (direct and indirect to retail/restaurants, ~\$172,411 cap) requires county registration plus home kitchen inspection. Kings County Environmental Health handles registration and permits. Only state-approved foods list permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state restriction on pets, but pets must not be in food preparation areas per GMP.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water testing requirement under CA cottage food law.
HANDWASHING	Adequate handwashing required as part of cottage food operation standards.
FOOD STORAGE	Only state-approved non-PHF foods. Products must be in compliant packaging.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: home kitchen inspection required. Complaint-based enforcement possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Kings County requires county permit/registration through Environmental Health. Local zoning preempted statewide for cottage food by Cal. Gov't Code §51035. A home occupation permit under local zoning may still be required for other business activity aspects.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only, online and shipping within California. Class B: direct sales plus retail stores and restaurants. Both classes: California only, no interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted statewide.

Relevant county code

Kings County Environmental Health cottage food regulations; Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

RESEARCH NOTES

Pattern county. State baseline governs. California permits handled by county Environmental Health departments. Kings County Environmental Health administers cottage food permits. No Kings County-specific cottage food code identified beyond state framework.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 465 · FIPS 6055 · Napa

Napa County

Population 137,384 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A (direct sales only, annual cap ~\$86,206 CPI-adjusted): no home kitchen inspection required. Class B (direct and indirect sales, annual cap ~\$172,411): home kitchen inspection required by Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services. Class B permit fee is \$278. Planning Department/Division Authorization required for Class B.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no

PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly prohibited in state statute; local health department may have requirements during inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; Napa County environmental health reviews during Class B inspection.
HANDWASHING	Required per food safety training standards; inspected for Class B.
FOOD STORAGE	Only approved state CFO food list items allowed. Non-potentially hazardous, no refrigeration required for finished products. Stored in food-safe containers.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Class B CFOs require home kitchen inspection before permit issued. Class A: no inspection. Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services administers the Class B permit at \$278 fee.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Napa County requires Planning Department/Division Authorization as part of the Class B CFO permit application. Class B CFO permit application form (countyofnapa.org) explicitly requires Planning Department authorization. Class A likely requires local zoning clearance as well.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within CA). Class B: also permits retail stores and restaurants. All sales must remain within California; no interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted per California CFO rules.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Napa County CFO Permit Application (Class B), administered by Planning, Building & Environmental Services, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, CA 94559.

RESEARCH NOTES

Napa County Class B CFO Permit Application (PDF) retrieved directly via Exa search from napacounty.gov. The application confirms: \$278 permit fee, Planning Department/Division Authorization required, food categories checked on application match CA state approved foods list. Class B requires home kitchen inspection; Class A (direct sales only) does not. Napa County is one of the more administratively involved counties for Class B CFOs. County govt URL confirmed (countyofnapa.org). High confidence for Class B requirements based on official Napa County document.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.countyofnapa.org>

<https://www.napacounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3819/Cottage-Food-Operation-Permit-Application-Class-B-PDF>

<https://www.countyofnapa.org>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 471 · FIPS 6023 · Eureka

Humboldt County

Population 136,132 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A (direct sales only, cap ~\$86,206): no home kitchen inspection required. Class B (direct and indirect sales, cap ~\$172,411): home kitchen inspection required, administered by Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services Environmental Health Division. Food safety training required every 3 years.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not explicitly prohibited in state statute; local environmental health department may require exclusion of pets from production area during Class B inspection.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; environmental health reviews during Class B inspection.
HANDWASHING	Required; inspected during Class B kitchen review.
FOOD STORAGE	Only state-approved CFO food list items. Non-potentially hazardous only; no refrigeration required for finished products.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Class B: home kitchen inspection required before permit issued, administered by Humboldt County Environmental Health. Class A: no inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Humboldt County may require local zoning clearance or home occupation permit. State law preempts local zoning for CFOs (Cal. Gov. Code §51035), but local Environmental Health permit is required for Class B. County planning department in Eureka handles land use questions.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales (home, farmers markets, events, online within CA). Class B: also retail stores and restaurants within California. Interstate sales prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	One non-family employee maximum per California CFO rules.

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; Humboldt County Environmental Health Division (CFO permits).

RESEARCH NOTES

State baseline (CA) confirmed. Humboldt County is a rural Northern California county. No county-specific health or planning URLs provided in input. County environmental health administers Class B CFO permits. State law (Cal. Gov. Code §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Confidence medium — county-specific enforcement details not independently verified from a Humboldt County .gov source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

Nevada County

Population 102,322 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — California two-tier system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect, ~\$172,411 annual cap, requires home kitchen inspection). Only foods on the official state-approved foods list permitted — most non-perishable non-TCS foods. Food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited course). Local environmental health departments handle permits/registrations. Local zoning preempted statewide by GOV §51035.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state pet restriction, but local health department may have requirements during kitchen inspection for Class B.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific state requirement beyond standard sanitation for Class A. Class B inspection may include water supply review.
HANDWASHING	Food safety training required (ANSI-accredited course, 3-year renewal).
FOOD STORAGE	Only approved foods list items permitted. Temperature-controlled and perishable foods prohibited. All sales and deliveries must remain within California.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: No routine inspection. Class B: Home kitchen inspection required before permit issuance. Subsequent inspections by Nevada County Environmental Health.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning from restricting cottage food operations. Nevada County Environmental Health administers CFO permits and fees. No home occupation permit specifically required for CFO under state preemption, but Nevada County may have general home business registration requirements.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: Direct sales only (online and shipping within California). Class B: Direct and indirect sales (to retailers and restaurants) within California. Interstate sales prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted per state law.

Relevant county code

No specific Nevada County code section identified. State law governs: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758. Nevada County Environmental Health administers locally.

RESEARCH NOTES

Nevada County has no county URLs in the input. State baseline governs. Nevada County is a rural Sierra Nevada foothills county with Nevada City as the historic gold rush county seat. California's two-tier system with CPI-adjusted annual caps applies. Only 1 non-family employee permitted statewide. No county-specific overrides found. Confidence medium.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 604 · FIPS 6101 · Yuba City

Sutter County

Population 99,101 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — California two-tier cottage food system: Class A (direct sales only, up to ~\$86,206/year as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, up to ~\$172,411/year, requires home kitchen inspection). Only CDPH-approved foods list items may be sold. Food safety training required every 3 years. Local environmental health department (Sutter County) handles registration/permits and fees. Local zoning preempted by California GOV §51035.
----------------------	---

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific state prohibition for cottage food, but good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific water supply requirement for Class A; Class B may involve county environmental health review.
HANDWASHING	Required as part of food safety training and general good manufacturing practices.
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-potentially hazardous shelf-stable approved foods; must prevent contamination and labeling must be accurate.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: home kitchen inspection required before permit issuance; county environmental health may inspect periodically.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — California GOV §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. No local home occupation permit required for cottage food; Class A/B registration with Sutter County Environmental Health is the applicable local requirement.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within California, in-state delivery). Class B: also allows retail stores and restaurants. No interstate sales or out-of-state delivery.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under California cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Sutter County Environmental Health administers cottage food permits per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758.

RESEARCH NOTES

No Sutter County-specific cottage food overrides found. Rules follow California state baseline. Sutter County Environmental Health (Yuba City serves as county seat; note Yuba City is in Sutter County) administers Class A and Class B registrations. Fees vary by county; typical range \$50–\$200/year. MEHKO (Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation) program is a separate pathway available in opt-in counties — verify with Sutter County EH whether MEHKO is available. Sales cap CPI-adjusted annually.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 650 · FIPS 6045 · Ukiah

Mendocino County

Population 91,145 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — California two-tier cottage food system: Class A (direct sales only, ~\$86,206/year cap as of 2025) and Class B (direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411/year cap, requires home kitchen inspection). Only CDPH-approved foods list items may be sold. Food safety training required every 3 years. Mendocino County Environmental Health (Public Health) handles registrations and permits. Confirmed: Mendocino County offers a Cottage Food Permit through Environmental Health Consumer Protection. Local zoning preempted by California GOV §51035.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS No specific state prohibition for cottage food; good manufacturing practices recommend keeping pets out of food preparation areas.

WATER SUPPLY No specific requirement for Class A; Class B may involve county environmental health review. Digital submission to enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov required for new applications.

HANDWASHING Required as part of food safety training and general good manufacturing practices.

FOOD STORAGE Only CDPH-approved non-PHF shelf-stable foods; must prevent contamination.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	yes — Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: home kitchen inspection required. Mendocino County Environmental Health administers via enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov .
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	no — California GOV §51035 preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Mendocino County Cottage Food Permit registration through Environmental Health is the applicable requirement (mendocinocounty.gov/Home/Components/ServiceDirectory/ServiceDirectory/444/3680).
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within California). Class B: also allows retail stores and restaurants. No interstate sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under California cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Mendocino County Cottage Food Permit; Environmental Health Consumer Protection (mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/environmental-health/consumer-protection)

RESEARCH NOTES

Mendocino County confirmed to have a specific Cottage Food Permit through Environmental Health Consumer Protection (mendocinocounty.gov). The county is digitizing Consumer Protection and Land Use files; new applications must be submitted digitally to enviroh@mendocinocounty.gov. The county provides a Cottage Food Operation (CFO) Registration and Permitting Form and a CFO Self-Certification Checklist. County follows California state baseline for Class A/B classification. Mendocino County is in Northern California wine country with active agricultural and farmers market scene.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/environmental-health/consumer-protection>

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/Home/Components/ServiceDirectory/ServiceDirectory/444/3680>

<https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/public-health/environmental-health/consumer-protection>

RANK 694 · FIPS 6115 · Marysville

Yuba County

Population 81,705 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — California two-tier system: Class A (direct sales only, up to ~\$86,206 annual cap as of 2025, CPI-adjusted) and Class B (direct and indirect sales including retail/restaurants, up to ~\$172,411 annual cap, requires home kitchen inspection). Both classes must register/permit with Yuba County Environmental Health. Only state-approved foods list items allowed (non-PHF, shelf-stable). Food safety training required (ANSI-accredited, every 3 years). Only one non-family employee permitted.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law; kitchen inspection for Class B will evaluate conditions.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific statutory requirement; kitchen conditions evaluated during inspection.
HANDWASHING	Food safety training covers hygiene; kitchen inspection (Class B) evaluates facilities.
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food safety storage; all production/storage within home kitchen space.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B requires home kitchen inspection by Yuba County Environmental Health. Class A does not require routine inspection. Complaint investigations may occur for both classes.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Yuba County may have home occupation ordinances in addition to the state cottage food permit. Local zoning preemption by Cal. Gov't Code §51035 means local governments cannot restrict CFO operations but zoning rules may still apply to physical business activities. Producers should check with Yuba County Community Development / Planning.

LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE conditional

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP conditional

ON-SITE SIGNAGE conditional

DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES Class A: direct sales only to consumers (farmers markets, events, from home, online with in-state shipping). Class B: direct plus indirect sales to retail stores and restaurants (permitted third-party retailers in Yuba County area). All sales must remain within California.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Only one non-family member employee permitted (state law).

Relevant county code

Yuba County Environmental Health administers CFO permits. Yuba County Community Development / Planning governs zoning.

RESEARCH NOTES

Yuba County Environmental Health directly administers CFO permits per the official Yuba County government website (.yuba.gov). The county page confirms Class A and Class B categories and that CFOs must register/permit through Yuba County Environmental Health. This is county-specific information from a county .gov source. Confidence is high: county-level CFO registration confirmed from official Yuba County .gov website.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.yuba.gov/departments/community_development/environmental_health/retail_food/cottage_food_operations/index.php

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 780 · FIPS 6033 · Lakeport

Lake County

Population 68,024 · State baseline: CA Health & Safety Code §114365 et seq. (AB 1616, AB 1252) ·

HIGH

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A (direct sales only): annual self-certification registration with Lake County Environmental Health required. Class B (direct + indirect sales): annual permit plus initial kitchen inspection required. Annual sales cap \$75,000 (Class A and B combined). Food processor training course required within 3 months of registering. Only CDPH-approved food list items permitted (non-PHF baked goods, candies, jams, etc.).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified but standard sanitation expected
WATER SUPPLY	Approved potable water source
HANDWASHING	Sanitary operations required; food processor training covers handwashing
FOOD STORAGE	Shelf-stable non-PHF products; no acidified or low-acid canned foods

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class B: initial inspection before permit; Class A: no routine inspection. Both: complaint-based inspection possible.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — All CFOs must obtain approval from local city or county planning department in addition to Environmental Health registration/permit. Planning department requirements vary by jurisdiction. Sellers Permits from Board of Equalization and city/county Business Licenses may also be required. Lake County Environmental Health administers registrations/permits.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales from home or at community events within California. Class B: direct and indirect sales through retailers/restaurants within California. Both must be within-state only.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME One full-time equivalent non-family employee permitted

Relevant county code

Lake County Environmental Health - Cottage Food Operations; CA Health & Safety Code §114365

RESEARCH NOTES

Lake County CA has a dedicated Cottage Food Operations page under Environmental Health. Two-tier Class A/Class B system applies. Class B requires initial kitchen inspection. Planning department approval also required. One non-family FTE employee allowed. Sales cap \$75,000. Food processor training course required within 3 months of registering. County has county-specific CFO documentation on .gov website.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov>

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/355/Cottage-Food-Operations>

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1074/Operator-Overview-PDF>

<https://www.lakecountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1069/California-Homemade-Food-Act-PDF>

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 815 · FIPS 6103 · Red Bluff

Tehama County

Population 65,484 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED yes — Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited). Local environmental health department handles permits and fees. State preempts local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035).

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN no

PET RESTRICTIONS Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and good manufacturing practice

WATER SUPPLY Potable water required; Tehama County Environmental Health may require well water testing for private wells

HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required; part of Class B kitchen inspection
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable foods only; approved foods list required

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: no inspection required. Class B: initial home kitchen inspection required. Both: complaint-based ongoing.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — Tehama County Environmental Health Department handles cottage food registration. Local zoning preempted statewide for CFOs (GOV §51035). Tehama County may have additional local business license requirements. Contact Tehama County Environmental Health at (530) 527-8220.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only including online and shipping within California. Class B: direct and indirect including retail stores and restaurants within California. Interstate sales prohibited.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted

Relevant county code

Tehama County Environmental Health Department administers cottage food registration

RESEARCH NOTES

California two-tier CFO system (Class A/B) applies statewide. Tehama County is a rural north-central CA county. Local environmental health department administers permits. State preempts local zoning restrictions for CFOs. Only one non-family employee permitted. No Tehama County-specific overrides identified beyond standard CA framework. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 828 · FIPS 6069 · Hollister

San Benito County

Population 64,753 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A (direct sales only): up to ~\$86,206/year; Class B (direct and indirect): up to ~\$172,411/year with home inspection required. Food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited). San Benito County Environmental Health administers local permits. State preempts local zoning restrictions (GOV §51035).
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	Pets should be excluded during food preparation per food safety training and GMP
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required; county environmental health may require well water testing for private wells
HANDWASHING	Handwashing sink required; assessed for Class B
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF shelf-stable approved foods only

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	no — Class A: no inspection required. Class B: initial home kitchen inspection required.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	conditional — San Benito County Environmental Health Department handles cottage food registration. State preempts local zoning restrictions. Contact San Benito County Environmental Health at (831) 637-5346.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales including online and shipping within California. Class B: plus retail stores and restaurants within California. No interstate sales.

MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME Only one non-family employee permitted

Relevant county code

San Benito County Environmental Health administers CFO registration

RESEARCH NOTES

San Benito County is a small agricultural county near Hollister, adjacent to Santa Clara and Monterey counties. California two-tier CFO system applies. One non-family employee limit. No specific San Benito County overrides found. No county URLs in input.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

RANK 925 · FIPS 6109 · Sonora

Tuolumne County

Population 54,993 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Class A cap \$75,000; Class B cap \$150,000 as of 2025) · **HIGH**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	yes — Class A (direct sales only, up to \$75,000/yr): registration with Tuolumne County Environmental Health Division, self-certification checklist. Class B (direct + indirect sales, up to \$150,000/yr): permit required from county EH, routine inspections. Only approved CDPH cottage food list items allowed. If selling within City of Sonora, contact city at (209) 532-3508. Must comply with CA Health & Safety Code Ch. 11.5.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	no
PET RESTRICTIONS	No specific county rule; standard sanitation applies.
WATER SUPPLY	No specific requirement beyond general cottage food sanitation standards.
HANDWASHING	Covered under certification requirements; food safety training required every 3 years (ANSI-accredited).
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-potentially hazardous foods from CDPH approved list. No refrigeration required.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	conditional — Class A: no routine inspection (complaint-based). Class B: routine inspections by Tuolumne County Environmental Health Division. Consumer complaint may trigger inspection for either class.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	yes — Tuolumne County Ordinance 200 (Title 17, §17.52.240) requires registration or permit from Environmental Health Division before operation. County zoning explicitly states cottage food operations are NOT considered home occupations. Class A: registration + self-certification. Class B: food facility permit required. If within City of Sonora, separate city business license required. Contact Tuolumne County Environmental Health: 48 Yaney Avenue, Sonora CA 95370, (209) 533-5633. Do not start operations until receiving approval.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales only (home, farmers markets, events, online within CA). Class B: direct and indirect (retail stores) within CA. No interstate sales. All sales must remain within California.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Only one non-family employee permitted under CA cottage food law.

Relevant county code

Tuolumne County Ordinance Code Title 17, §17.04.222 (definitions), §17.52.240 (cottage food operations); Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

RESEARCH NOTES

Tuolumne County has a specific cottage food ordinance (Title 17 §17.52.240, Ordinance 200) that explicitly defines cottage food operations and requires Environmental Health Division registration/permit before starting. The county's registration form (2020) confirms Class A/Class B framework with county-specific processing: complete registration form first, then county reviews and sends Food Facility Permit Application with payment instructions. Notably, the county ordinance states cottage food operations are NOT considered home occupations. CDPH caps updated: Class A \$75,000, Class B \$150,000 as of 2025. City of Sonora has separate requirements. This county has one of the better-documented local frameworks found in this batch.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/172/Environmental-Health>

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov>

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov>

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4740/Cottage-Foods-Registration-Form>

https://tuolumneco.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?clip_id=57&meta_id=5848&view_id=5

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FDBPrograms/FoodSafetyProgram/CFORrequirements.aspx>

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6003 · Markleeville

Alpine County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab

HANDWASHING required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

FOOD STORAGE standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. However, Alpine County may require a zoning clearance or home occupation permit for any home-based business. Class A requires county Environmental Health registration; Class B requires county Environmental Health permit. Alpine County is extremely rural (population ~1,200) and the Environmental Health function is handled by El Dorado County EHS under a services agreement. Contact El Dorado County EHS for CFO registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	unlikely; Alpine County has no incorporated cities and minimal business licensing infrastructure; confirm with county

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

Alpine County is the least populous county in California (~1,200 residents). Environmental health services are contracted to El Dorado County EHS. No county-specific cottage food rules found beyond state baseline. CFO registration/permit obtained through El Dorado County EHS on behalf of Alpine County. State law preempts local zoning restrictions. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411. Food safety training required (ANSI-accredited, valid 3 years).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/EnvironmentalHealth>

<https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/193/Planning>

<https://www.alpinecountyca.gov>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6005 · Jackson

Amador County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false
PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Amador County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). A home occupation clearance from Amador County Community Development/Planning may be required for general home business zoning compliance. Contact Amador County Environmental Health in Jackson for CFO registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas do not require a county business license; incorporated cities (Jackson, Sutter Creek, etc.) may require city business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Amador County Code Title 19 (Zoning)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Amador County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. CFO registration/ permit obtained through Amador County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411. Food safety training required (ANSI-accredited, valid 3 years). County has gold rush heritage tourism economy; farmers markets in Jackson and Sutter Creek are likely sales venues.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.amadorgov.org/departments/environmental-health>

<https://www.amadorgov.org/departments/community-development>

<https://www.amadorgov.org>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6009 · San Andreas

Calaveras County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false
PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Calaveras County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Home occupation clearance from Calaveras County Planning Department may be required for general home business zoning compliance in unincorporated areas.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Calaveras County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Calaveras County Code Chapter 17 (Zoning)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Calaveras County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. CFO registration/ permit obtained through Calaveras County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411. Food safety training required (ANSI-accredited, valid 3 years). County is known for Calaveras Big Trees and frog jumping contest; rural Sierra Nevada foothills county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.calaverasgov.us/Departments/Environmental-Health>

<https://www.calaverasgov.us/Departments/Planning>

<https://www.calaverasgov.us>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6011 · Colusa

Colusa County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab

HANDWASHING required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

FOOD STORAGE standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Colusa County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Agricultural county in Sacramento Valley; most residences are in unincorporated areas. Contact Colusa County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Colusa may require city business license for city-based operations

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Colusa County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Predominantly agricultural Sacramento Valley county. CFO registration/permit obtained through Colusa County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.colusacounty.ca.gov/publicservices/environmentalhealth.html>

<https://www.colusacounty.ca.gov/publicservices/planning.html>

<https://www.colusacounty.ca.gov>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6015 · Crescent City

Del Norte County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false
PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Del Norte County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Remote coastal and forested county on the Oregon border. Contact Del Norte County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Crescent City may require city business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Del Norte County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Remote northern California coastal county bordering Oregon. CFO registration/permit obtained through Del Norte County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/environmental-health>

<https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/departments/planning>

<https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6021 · Willows

Glenn County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false

PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Glenn County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Agricultural Sacramento Valley county. Contact Glenn County Department of Planning and Public Works / Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Willows may require city business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Glenn County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Agricultural Sacramento Valley county with primary crops of rice, almonds, and olives. CFO registration/permit obtained through Glenn County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/public-health>

<https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-public-works>

<https://www.countyofglenn.net>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6027 · Independence

Inyo County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab; arid desert county - water source verification important

HANDWASHING required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

FOOD STORAGE standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Inyo County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Large Eastern Sierra / Mojave Desert county. Contact Inyo County Environmental Health Division for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Inyo County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Inyo County Ordinance Code Title 18 (Zoning)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Inyo County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Large but sparsely populated Eastern Sierra county (area includes Death Valley). Significant portion of land is federal (NPS, BLM, USFS). CFO registration/permit obtained through Inyo County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.inyocounty.us/services/environmental-health>

<https://www.inyocounty.us/services/planning>

<https://www.inyocounty.us>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6035 · Susanville

Lassen County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false
PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Lassen County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Remote northeastern California high-desert county bordering Nevada and Oregon. Contact Lassen County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Susanville may require city business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Lassen County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Remote northeastern California county; county seat Susanville also houses High Desert State Prison. CFO registration/permit obtained through Lassen County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.lassencounty.org/dept/environmental-health/environmental-health>

<https://www.lassencounty.org/dept/planning/planning>

<https://www.lassencounty.org>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6043 · Mariposa

Mariposa County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false

PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Mariposa County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Gateway county to Yosemite National Park. Contact Mariposa County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Mariposa County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Mariposa County Land Use Code

RESEARCH NOTES

No Mariposa County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Tourism-heavy county; gateway to Yosemite. CFO registration/permit obtained through Mariposa County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411. Yosemite visitor traffic may provide sales opportunities at farmers markets.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.mariposacounty.org/index.aspx?nid=181>

<https://www.mariposacounty.org/index.aspx?nid=171>

<https://www.mariposacounty.org>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6049 · Alturas

Modoc County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab

HANDWASHING required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

FOOD STORAGE standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Modoc County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Very remote, sparsely populated northeastern California county bordering Oregon and Nevada. Contact Modoc County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Alturas may require city business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Modoc County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. One of California's most isolated counties; population under 10,000. CFO registration/permit obtained through Modoc County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.modocounty.us/environmental-health>

<https://www.modocounty.us/planning>

<https://www.modocounty.us>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6051 · Bridgeport

Mono County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false
PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab; high-altitude arid county
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Mono County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). High-altitude Eastern Sierra county; Mammoth Lakes is the largest community. Contact Mono County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; Town of Mammoth Lakes may require town business license for operations within town limits

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
-------------------------	------

ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Mono County Land Use Element

RESEARCH NOTES

No Mono County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. High-altitude Eastern Sierra county; major ski resort area (Mammoth Mountain). CFO registration/permit obtained through Mono County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411. Town of Mammoth Lakes has its own planning department.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://monocounty.ca.gov/environmental-health>

<https://monocounty.ca.gov/planning>

<https://monocounty.ca.gov>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6063 · Quincy

Plumas County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Plumas County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Rural northern Sierra Nevada county. Contact Plumas County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Plumas County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Plumas County Zoning Ordinance

RESEARCH NOTES

No Plumas County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Rural northern Sierra Nevada county; significant Plumas National Forest land. CFO registration/permit obtained through Plumas County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.plumascounty.us/environmental-health>

<https://www.plumascounty.us/planning>

<https://www.plumascounty.us>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6091 · Downieville

Sierra County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED true

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN false

PET RESTRICTIONS no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production

WATER SUPPLY potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab

HANDWASHING required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance

FOOD STORAGE standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Sierra County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Extremely rural and sparsely populated northern Sierra Nevada county (population under 3,000). Contact Sierra County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Sierra County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption)

RESEARCH NOTES

No Sierra County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. One of California's least populous counties with no incorporated cities. CFO registration/permit obtained through Sierra County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/environmental_health

<https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov/government/departments/planning>

<https://www.sierracounty.ca.gov>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6093 · Yreka

Siskiyou County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false
PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Siskiyou County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Large northern California county bordering Oregon; includes Mount Shasta area. Contact Siskiyou County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county unincorporated areas generally do not require a county business license; City of Yreka and other incorporated cities may require city business license

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
-------------------------	------

ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Siskiyou County Zoning Ordinance

RESEARCH NOTES

No Siskiyou County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Large northern California county; features Mount Shasta, Klamath River, and significant federal forest lands. CFO registration/permit obtained through Siskiyou County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/publichealth>

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/planning>

<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

RANK 9999 · FIPS 6105 · Weaverville

Trinity County

Population 0 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758; CA tier: Good; CDPH cottage food operations program · **MEDIUM**

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	true
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	false

PET RESTRICTIONS	no specific county rule; CDPH guidance recommends pets excluded from food prep area during production
WATER SUPPLY	potable water required; private well users must have water tested regularly by state-certified lab
HANDWASHING	required per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 and CDPH cottage food guidance
FOOD STORAGE	standard food safety storage per CDPH approved foods list; all products must be non-potentially hazardous

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Class A: complaint-based only; Class B: annual inspection by county Environmental Health — Class A - complaint only; Class B - routine annual inspection
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	true — California state law (GOV §51035) preempts local zoning restrictions on cottage food operations. Trinity County Environmental Health processes CFO registrations (Class A) and permits (Class B). Remote mountainous north-central California county with no incorporated cities. Contact Trinity County Environmental Health for registration.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	county has no incorporated cities; unincorporated county areas generally do not require a county business license; confirm with Trinity County

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	true
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	no commercial signage per typical CA home occupation rules; state law preempts restrictions on cottage food sales
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	direct sales and delivery within California only; no interstate sales per state law
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	one non-family employee maximum per Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

Relevant county code

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (state CFO law); GOV §51035 (zoning preemption); Trinity County Code

RESEARCH NOTES

No Trinity County-specific cottage food restrictions found beyond state baseline. Extremely rural landlocked county with no incorporated cities; one of California's most remote. CFO registration/permit obtained through Trinity County Environmental Health. State law preempts local zoning restrictions on CFOs. Class A annual gross sales cap ~\$86,206 (2025, CPI-adjusted); Class B ~\$172,411.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.trinitycounty.org/Departments/Health/Environmental-Health>

<https://www.trinitycounty.org/Departments/Community-Development>

<https://www.trinitycounty.org>

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

Generated 2026-05-06 from data/research/state_cottage_food_statutes.csv and data/research/county_cottage_food_zoning.csv. This report is for research purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Cottage food law is in active flux — re-verify all citations and rules against state and county .gov sources before relying on them for regulatory decisions.