

Cottage Food Operation Registration (CFO-A) / Permit (CFO-B)



Cottage Food Operations - CFO

The California Homemade Food Act became effective on January 1, 2013.

This law allows certain [state approved foods](#), known as Cottage Foods, to be made in private homes and sold to the public.

Cottage food products are **non-potentially hazardous foods** that are unlikely to grow harmful bacteria or other toxic microorganisms at room temperature.

Note: Cannabis-infused edibles are not an approved cottage food product.

Approved “Cottage Foods” examples

Only foods listed on the CDPH Approved CFO products list may be made with a Cottage Food Permit.

- Bread, cookies, candy
- Baking mixes, coffee
- Frostings, icings, and fondants that do not contain eggs, cream, or cream cheese
- Honey and sorghum syrups, flavored extracts
- Fruit butters, jams, jellies
- Nuts, nut mixes, and nut butters
- Vinegars and mustards




Approved “Cottage Foods”

The CDPH Approved CFO products list can be found at:


<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/CottageFood/ApprovedCottageFoodsList.pdf>

Review the list to read about limitations and exceptions for different products.



CDPH
TOMAS J. ARAGÓN, MD, DPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

APPROVED COTTAGE FOODS – SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

Cottage Food Operations are allowed to produce certain categories of non-potentially hazardous foods. These are foods that do not support the rapid growth of microorganisms or toxins that could make people sick when the food is held outside time and temperature control. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is responsible for maintaining the Approved Cottage Foods List and may add or delete food categories. Notice of any change, the reason for the change, and the nature of the change is posted on our [Cottage Food Operations](#) webpage. Changes become effective 30 days after the notice has been posted. Questions about the Approved Cottage Foods List may be submitted to FDBRetail@cdph.ca.gov.

1. **BAKED GOODS WITHOUT CREAM, CUSTARD, OR MEAT FILLINGS.**
 Examples:
 Bagels * Baklava * Biscuits * Bread * Brownies * Buns * Cake * Churros * Coconut Macaroons * Cookies * Crackers * Cupcakes * Donuts (fried or baked) * Empanadas (fruit only) * Flatbreads * Fruit, Nut, or Seed Bars * Macarons (with approved buttercream) * Muffins * Pastries * Pies (fruit only) * Pizzelles * Quick Breads * Samosas (fruit only) * Tamales (fruit only) * Tarts * Tortilla * Torts * Waffles (fried or baked) * Waffle Cones

2. **CANDY AND CONFECTIONS.** Examples:
 Brittles * Candied Apples * Candied Popcorn (balls, caramel, chocolate) * Caramels * Cotton Candy * Chocolate-Covered Non-Perishables (including: marshmallows, nuts, candy, dried fruit, potato chips, or any combination) * Edible Dessert Sprinkles (including: sanding and crystalized sugars, non-pareils, confetti, sequins, dragees, sugar-shapes, sugar-strands (jimmies), comfits, mini-chocolates, and pralines) * Freeze-Dried Candies * Fudge * Ground Chocolate * Hard Candy * Marshmallow Bars * Marshmallows (without eggs) * Popcorn Balls * Salted Caramels * Spiced Sugar * Toffee

3. **EXTRACTS CONTAINING AT LEAST 70 PROOF OR 35% FOOD-GRADE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION ETHANOL/ALCOHOL.**
 Only those listed or combinations of those listed are allowed.
 Apple * Apricot * Blackberry * Blueberry * Cherry * Chocolate * Clove * Cinnamon * Cranberry * Grapefruit * Lemon * Lime * Orange * Peach * Pear * Pineapple * Pomegranate * Raspberry * Strawberry * and Vanilla

Food and Drug Branch* P.O. Box 997435, MS 7602, Sacramento, CA 95899-7435* (916) 650-6500

Where to start - Contact EMD

If you are thinking about starting a Cottage Food Operation – **Contact EMD!** Specialists are available to answer questions and provide more information.

Call Monday-Friday 8-10 am: (916) 875-8440

email: CottageFood@saccounty.gov

Please note:

- A registration or permit is required prior to operation
- Registration/Permit **must** be renewed **annually** through the portal (online application) <https://emd.saccounty.gov/EH/FoodProtect-RetailFood/Pages/CottageFood.aspx>
- Other permits and approvals may be required: Zoning, Planning Dept. (County/City), Business Licensing, Business Operations Tax Certificate

Types of CFO Permits

Class A registration “Direct Sales”

- Register with EMD through online portal
- No initial or routine inspection
- Inspection may be conducted for a consumer complaint
- Sales are allowed from CFO directly to consumer
- ***Cottage Food A gross annual sales cannot exceed \$75,000.***

Types of CFO Permits

Class B Permit “Direct Sales” & “Indirect Sales”

- Apply for permit through EMD online portal
- One inspection per year
- Inspection may be conducted for consumer complaint
- **Direct sales allowed** as listed under Class A
- **Indirect Sales allowed:** foods may be sold indirectly through a permitted third party retailer such as restaurants and retail markets.
- ***Cottage Food B gross annual sales cannot exceed \$150,000.***

Operational Requirements

- ***Must be registered and approved prior to operation***
- Food Processor/Food Handler Card/Food Safety Certification required within 90 days of approval
- Must practice proper handwashing before/during food preparation
- Water used for cleaning and as an ingredient must be potable
- Foods must have proper labeling; “Made in a Home Kitchen” or “Repackaged in a Home Kitchen”, as applicable

Cottage Food Operation Self-Certification Checklist

- No other domestic activities happening at the same time when food for cottage food operation is being prepared
- No infants or pets may be in the kitchen during food preparation
- Kitchen equipment and utensils maintained in good repair
- Food contact surfaces must be washed, rinsed, and sanitized
- Food preparation and storage areas shall be free of rodents and insects
- Smoking is not allowed in the prep areas while food is being prepared

Cottage Food - Sample Label

Cottage food products are required to be labeled in accordance with specific state and federal labeling regulations.

A link to CDPH requirements can be found on the EMD webpage.



MADE IN A HOME KITCHEN

Registration/Permit #: PR0012345-A

Issued in County: Sacramento County EMD

Chocolate Chip Cookies With Walnuts

Perfect Baker

123 Cottage Food Lane

Anywhere, CA 90XXX

Ingredients: Enriched flour (Wheat flour, niacin, reduced iron, thiamine, mononitrate, riboflavin and folic acid), butter (milk, salt), chocolate chips (sugar, chocolate liquor, cocoa butter, butterfat (milk), walnuts, sugar, eggs, salt, artificial vanilla extract, baking soda.

Contains: Wheat, eggs, milk, soy, walnuts

Net Wt. 3 oz. (85.049g)

Cottage Food Operation - notes to remember

- **Registered or permitted area:** The portion of the home that contains the kitchen and attached rooms within the home used exclusively for storage.
- **A cottage food operation is not a permitted “Food Facility”** - The home may only be used for preparation of approved cottage foods.
- **Cottage food products** – limited to non-potentially hazardous foods prepared in the kitchen of a Cottage Food Operation.

Questions?



Contacts and Additional Resources

Contact EMD:

- (916) 875-8440
- **email:** CottageFood@saccounty.gov

EMD Website:

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

Registration/Permit portal (online application):

- Class A Registration & Self-Checklist
<https://emdportal.saccounty.net/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=65>
- Class B Permit
<https://emdportal.saccounty.net/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=77>
- Class B Renewal
<https://emdportal.saccounty.net/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=74>

