

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Fresno County

California · Fresno · FIPS 06019 · Population 1,008,280 ·
Crosodo Index #2160*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

MEDIUM

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.

CALIFORNIA: FRESNO COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2160* · FIPS 06019 · Fresno

Fresno County

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

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

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 KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

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.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class A: no routine inspection; upon complaint. Class B: annual inspection required.)

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

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/california/fresno-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Fresno County	Tulare County	Monterey County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Conditional
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	State baseline applies	No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation	Pets prohibited from kitchen during food production per state law.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Conditional	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct/indirect sales within California only. State baseline applies.	Class A: direct sales at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local shops an...	Class A: direct to consumer only; internet sales must be in-person pickup or delivery within county. Class B: retail/wholesale/mail order a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies by city	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies by city	Yes	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Fresno County Environmental Health Division administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Fresno...	Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Tulare County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ...	California cottage food law (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758) allows Class A (direct sales only) and Class B (direct and indirect sales i...
FOOD STORAGE	State baseline applies	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only per state-approved CDPH list.
POPULATION	1,008,280	473,446	437,609

State context — California cottage food law

Fresno County’s rules sit on top of California’s state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

<p>STATUTE Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758</p> <p>REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes</p> <p>KITCHEN INSPECTION No</p> <p>INDIRECT SALES 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.</p>	<p>ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)</p> <p>FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)</p> <p>DIRECT SALES ONLY No</p>
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For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [California cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

- State statute: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=HSC§ionNum=113758
 - State dept cottage food page: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf
 - Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/california/>
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Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss Fresno County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/california/fresno-county-discuss>
