

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Kern County

California · Bakersfield · FIPS 06029 · Population 906,883 ·
Crosodo Index #1674*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 (Cottage Food Operations); two-tier Class A/B system

STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
Good	Tiered (see notes)	HIGH	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: KERN COUNTY

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Kern County

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

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

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 KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Standard sanitation applies; not specifically addressed in county guidance

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.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class B requires home kitchen inspection before permit issuance. Class A is self-certified. Subsequent inspections upon complaint.)

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

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Kern County	Ventura County	San Bernardino County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Standard sanitation applies; not specifically addressed in county guidance	Standard sanitation; not specifically stated in county materials	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail or third-party delivery permitted). Class B: direct and indirect through resta...	Class A: direct sales via in person, phone, internet; mail/ third-party delivery within California. Class B: direct plus indirect (restauran...	Direct/indirect sales within California only; state baseline applies. Up to 1 full-time equivalent employee (not family/household member) a...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Varies	Yes
RESTRICTIONS	Must be operator's primary residence. Kern County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A (direct sales only, up t...	Ventura County Resource Management Agency (Environmental Health Division) administers CFO permits. Class A (direct sales only, up to \$75,00...	San Bernardino County Environmental Health Services (EHS) administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/ permits. All CFOs must first ob...
FOOD STORAGE	Standard food storage per state Approved Foods List requirements	Standard food storage per state approved foods list	State baseline applies
POPULATION	906,883	842,009	2,180,563

State context — California cottage food law

Kern 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.

STATUTE Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758	ANNUAL SALES CAP Tiered (see notes)
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT Yes (specific course)
KITCHEN INSPECTION No	DIRECT SALES ONLY No
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.	

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.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/>

Questions?

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

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