

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Orange County

California · Santa Ana · FIPS 06059 · Population 3,175,227 ·
Crosodo Index #1672*

STATE BASELINE

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758

STATE TIER

Good

ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)

Tiered (see notes)

CONFIDENCE

HIGH

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: ORANGE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1672* · FIPS 06059 · Santa Ana

Orange County

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

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

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 KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

State baseline applies

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.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class A: no routine inspection. Class B: annual inspection required for permit. Both: upon-complaint investigation triggers additional fees.)

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>

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

State context — California cottage food law

Orange 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.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/>

Questions?

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

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