

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Stanislaus County

California · Modesto · FIPS 06099 · Population 552,063 ·
Crosodo Index #1676*

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: STANISLAUS COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1676* · FIPS 06099 · Modesto

Stanislaus County

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

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

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 KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation

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.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Conditional (Class A: no inspection required except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit issued and annual inspection thereafter.)

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>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

| Regulation | Stanislaus County | San Joaquin County | Alameda County |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN | No | No | No |
| PETS ALLOWED | No specific state cottage food pet restriction beyond general sanitation | Standard sanitation; no specific county guidance found | No animals inside kitchen/dining areas during MEHKO operations (MEHKO SOP requirement). State baseline applies for CFOs. |
| 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 — at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local s... | Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail/third-party delivery permitted within California). Class B: direct and indirec... | CFO: direct/indirect sales within California only. MEHKO: on-site dining, pickup, delivery by operator/staff. MEHKO food must be prepared a... |
| HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT | Yes | Conditional | Yes |
| LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE | Yes | Varies | Varies by city |
| RESTRICTIONS | Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Stanislaus County Environmental Resources, no inspection. Class B: direc... | San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A: \$186 fee, direct sales only, up to current state cap (...) | Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (ACDEH) administers both CFO Class A/B registrations/permits and the MEHKO program. CFO a... |
| FOOD STORAGE | Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only | Standard food storage per state approved foods list | State baseline applies |
| POPULATION | 552,063 | 779,445 | 1,663,823 |

State context — California cottage food law

Stanislaus 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.

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|---|--|
| <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.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 Stanislaus County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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