

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Tulare County

California · Visalia · FIPS 06107 · Population 473,446 ·
Crosodo Index #1982*

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: TULARE COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1982* · FIPS 06107 · Visalia

Tulare County

Population 473,446 · State baseline: Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Tulare County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection required. Local zoning/planning 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 (California cottage food law requires local planning/zoning approval for CFOs. Tulare County planning department governs unincorporated areas; cities within the county (Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, etc.) have their own planning departments. Operators should contact Tulare County Resource Management Agency (Planning) for unincorporated areas or the relevant city planning department. Home occupation permit and business license typically required.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

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

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Tulare County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ~\$172,411 annual cap, annual permit, annual inspection required. Local zoning/planning 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
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 except upon consumer complaint. Class B: initial inspection before permit and annual inspection thereafter.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes — California cottage food law requires local planning/zoning approval for CFOs. Tulare County planning department governs unincorporated areas; cities within the county (Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, etc.) have their own planning departments. Operators should contact Tulare County Resource Management Agency (Planning) for unincorporated areas or the relevant city planning department. Home occupation permit and business license typically required.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Class A: direct sales at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local shops and restaurants. Both limited to within Tulare 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

Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758. Tulare County Environmental Health and Planning departments.

RESEARCH NOTES

Tulare County follows California state CFO framework (Cal. Health & Safety Code §113758). No county government URL or county health URL provided in input. Tulare County has its own Environmental Health department administering CFO registrations/permits. Planning/zoning approval required per CA state law. No Tulare County-specific CFO pages retrieved from official sources. Confidence medium: California state law confirmed; Tulare County-specific local rules not retrieved from official county source.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/Cottage%20Food%20Operations/CFO_Faq.pdf

<https://ij.org/issues/economic-liberty/homemade-food-seller/california/>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Tulare County	Kern County	Fresno 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 applies; not specifically addressed in county guidance	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 at residence, certified farmers markets, bake sales, community events. Class B: adds indirect sales to local shops an...	Class A: direct sales only (in person, phone, internet; mail or third-party delivery permitted). Class B: direct and indirect through resta...	Direct/indirect sales within California only. State baseline applies.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Yes	Yes	Varies by city
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Class A: direct sales only, ~\$86,206 annual cap, registration with Tulare County Environmental Health. Class B: direct and indirect sales, ...	Must be operator’s primary residence. Kern County Environmental Health Department administers CFO permits. Class A (direct sales only, up t...	Fresno County Environmental Health Division administers CFO Class A and Class B registrations/permits. No MEHKO opt-in confirmed for Fresno...
FOOD STORAGE	Approved non-potentially hazardous food storage in home kitchen only	Standard food storage per state Approved Foods List requirements	State baseline applies
POPULATION	473,446	906,883	1,008,280

State context — California cottage food law

Tulare 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 Tulare County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

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