

MEHKO Operating with a Compact Mobile Food Operation Fact Sheet

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About a Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO)

A MEHKO is a new food business where an individual can operate a restaurant in their home. Once permitted, a resident can store, handle, prepare, and serve food to the public, as allowed by State law; this is similar to a small-scale restaurant. MEHKOs may sell up to **30 meals per day** but not more than **90 meals per week**, while earning a maximum amount of **\$100,000 in gross annual sales**. In addition, a MEHKO operator who operates a **Compact mobile Food Operation (CMFO)** can increase the number of meals they sell daily and weekly while earning more income annually.



About a Compact Mobile Food Operation (CMFO)

A CMFO is a mobile food facility in which an individual is approved to sell prepackaged or unpackaged food, with limited preparation, from a pushcart, stand, display, pedal-driven cart, wagon, showcase, rack, or other nonmotorized carts.

A CMFO can sell where it is allowed by local jurisdictions. Locations include sidewalks, Community Events, such as fairs, festivals, and concerts, and more.

CMFO Health Permit Exemption

The CMFO will not need a Health Permit if the following applies:

- Selling in a space that is **25 square feet or less** and
- Selling only non-perishable foods and/or
- Selling whole (uncut) fruits and vegetables.

Operating a MEHKO & CMFO Together

A MEHKO and a CMFO may operate together by the same operator when they obtain the appropriate permits. If approved, the MEHKO may support a CMFO by serving as a commissary for up to two (2) food carts.

A MEHKO operating in conjunction with an approved CMFO may sell up to **80 meals per day**, but not more than **200 meals per week**, and can earn a maximum of **\$150,000** in gross annual sales; sales limits do not include prepackaged food items such as soda or chips that are sold by a MEHKO operated CMFO. Additionally, the MEHKO and CMFO may advertise online.

To learn more about MEHKO vs CMFO – What’s the Difference, visit this website: ph.lacounty.gov/MEHKO

To learn more about the permits that are needed to operate a CMFO, visit this website: bit.ly/LAC-CMFO