

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?

Cottage Food Operation (CFO) & Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation (MEHKO)

This document details some of the differences and similarities between a CFO and MEHKO.

	CFO	MEHKO
Gross sales	CFO A gross annual sales limit of \$83,614* CFO B gross annual sales limit of \$167,227*	Gross annual sales limit of \$103,900*
Sale types	CFO A can only do direct sales CFO B can do both direct and indirect sales	Can only do direct sales No catering
Delivery	Direct delivery allowed Third-party delivery service allowed	Direct delivery only No third-party delivery services
Onsite dining	Not applicable	Onsite dining consumption allowed - Toilets available during customer onsite dining
Offsite operation	Additional permits to operate off-site from the home (e.g., events, farmers' markets, etc.)	May not operate off-site from the home
Labeling	CFO products require approved labels	MEHKO food does not require labeling
Advertisements	Advertisements must state the county of approval, CFO permit number and "made in a home kitchen"	Advertisements must state the name of the enforcement agency, MEHKO permit number and "made in a home kitchen"
Food safety training	Operator and any other food handlers must obtain a Food Handler Card	Operator must obtain a Food Safety Manager Certificate (FSC). All other members of the MEHKO must obtain a Food Handler Card
Perishable foods	Cannot prepare potentially hazardous food	Can prepare potentially hazardous food
Advance preparation	Advance preparation allowed	Advance preparation not allowed. Must prepare, cook, and serve food on the same day.
Outdoor prep	No outdoor food preparation	May operate outdoor BBQ/wood burning oven
Meal limitation	Not applicable	No more than 30 meals per day and 90 per week
IFSI	Not applicable	May use an Internet Food Service Intermediary (IFSI)
BOTH CFO AND MEHKO		
CMFO	Can obtain permit for Compact Mobile Food Operation (CMFO) for the CFO or MEHKO operation	
Inspection	One annual routine inspection (not applicable to CFO A)	
Complaints	Subject to complaint-based inspections	
Household activities	Operation may not occur in the kitchen concurrent with any other domestic activities, such as family meal preparation, dishwashing, clothes washing, kitchen cleaning, or guest entertainment	
Children, pets	Infants, children, and pets not in the kitchen or dining area during CFO or MEHKO operation	
Employee	Limited to 1 full-time employee, not including immediate family member or household member	
One operation	Only one CFO or MEHKO per residence allowed	
Prohibited foods	Prohibited foods to make include, but are not limited to, the following: raw milk, ice cream, raw oysters, and foods using specialized food processing (reduced oxygen packaging [vacuum packaging]; sous vide; smoking/acidification other than for taste; curing; fermenting; canning [CFO jam/jelly allowed])	

*As of 1/1/24. Adjusted annually based on the consumer price index for inflation.