

Compact Mobile Food Operations

On September 23, 2022, Governor Newsom signed SB 972, a bill that modifies the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) and allows some sidewalk food vendors to obtain public health permits. The new law established a new retail food facility, among other changes, and is effective on **January 1, 2023**.

Compact Mobile Food Operation (CMFO) in section 113831 of the CRFC is defined as a “mobile food facility that operates from an individual or from a push cart, stand, display, pedal-driven cart, wagon, showcase, rack, or other nonmotorized conveyance.”

A CMFO may have non-prepackaged food and conduct limited food preparation with potentially hazardous foods and non-potentially hazardous foods. Examples of menu items that easily fit within limited food preparation include but are not limited to: hot dogs, shaved ice, roasted nuts, popcorn, churros, fruit cups, precooked corn, and tamales. The menu that can be prepared from a CMFO depends on the equipment present on the CMFO.

Before operation begins, a CMFO will need the following:

- Health permit required.
- Commissary which can either be a permitted food facility or a permitted Cottage Food Operation (CFO) Class B. A CFO can serve as a commissary for a maximum of 2 CMFO's with endorsement from Environmental Health.
- Handwashing is required if there is handling of open food on the CMFO.
- Warewashing is required if there is handling of raw meats, raw poultry, or raw fish on the CMFO.
- Mechanical refrigeration is required for cold holding potentially hazardous foods at or below 41°F. Hot-holding unit is required for hot holding potentially hazardous foods at or above 135°F.
- Food handler cards required.
- Potentially hazardous food prepared at an approved facility and served from a CMFO shall be destroyed at the end of the operating day.
- Restroom access if parked at one location for more than 1 hour.
- Routine inspection conducted annually.

Exemptions: A health permit and an inspection may not apply for CMFOs that have less than 25 square feet of display space AND sell only non-potentially hazardous prepackaged food or whole uncooked produce.

For more information, please contact Sonoma County Environmental Health at (707) 565- 6565 or visit us at: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Health/Environmental-Health-and-Safety/>