



# REGISTRATION FOR ORGANIC FOOD PROCESSORS

**Organic food processing operations** must register with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), prior to the first sale of product

## DO I REGISTER WITH CDFA OR CDPH?

### CDFA

Processors and handlers of processed meat, fowl, or dairy products, and retailers that are engaged in the processing or handling of processed products sold as organic.

### CDPH

Processors and handlers of processed/manufactured products for human consumption that are not part of the CDFA categories above, including dietary supplements, alcoholic beverages, fish or seafood; and processors or handlers of animal food and cosmetics sold as organic.

### Cottage Food Operation (CFO)

A CFO is an operation at a private home or dwelling where specific low-risk food products that do not require refrigeration are made or repackaged for sale to consumers.

### CFO Requirements

- Meet registration/permitting requirements for Class A (direct sales only) or Class B (direct and indirect sales)
- Obtain approval from the local city or county planning department
- Label cottage food products in accordance with state and federal regulations
- Complete a CDPH approved food processor course
- Meet CFO food preparation and sanitation requirements
- Do not exceed \$50,000 in gross annual sales

### Organic CFOs

**IN ADDITION TO MEETING GENERAL CFO REQUIREMENTS, ORGANIC CFOS MUST ALSO**

- Register with the CDFA
- Comply with state and federal organic regulations

### Gross Sales Limit

Once a CFO exceeds gross sales of \$50,000, the operation must move to a commercial processing facility and register with CDPH under the Processed Food Registration Program.



# SUPPORTING THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY

The **CDFA State Organic Program** is here to

■ Support   ■ Inform   ■ Guide

**READY TO START YOUR ORGANIC  
PROCESSOR REGISTRATION?**

**Connect with us at**

[WWW.CDFA.CA.GOV/IS/](http://WWW.CDFA.CA.GOV/IS/)

**OR**

[WWW.CDPH.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CDPH.CA.GOV)

**To Learn more about Cottage Food Operations and  
all the requirements, visit the following URLs**

### **Cottage Food Operations**

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FDBPrograms/  
FoodSafetyProgram/CottageFoodOperations.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FDBPrograms/FoodSafetyProgram/CottageFoodOperations.aspx)

### **Approved Cottage Foods**

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20  
Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/CottageFood/Approved%20Cottage%20  
Food%20List%20%20for%20Web%20July%201%202018.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/CDPH%20Document%20Library/FDB/FoodSafetyProgram/CottageFood/Approved%20Cottage%20Food%20List%20%20for%20Web%20July%201%202018.pdf)

### **Local Health Offices**

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/pages/localhealthservicesandoffices.aspx#>