



MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHEN OPERATIONS (MEHKO)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH AND QUALITY (DEHQ)
FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

Background

Pre 2013
No home-based
food businesses
allowed

1/1/2019
MEHKO law goes
into effect
(AB 626)

9/15/2021
BOS directs DEHQ
to return in 120
days with
proposed MEHKO
ordinance

1/1/2013
CFO law goes into
effect

10/7/2019
MEHKO cleanup
law goes into
effect
(AB 377)

Current MEHKO programs in California

- ❑ 2019 - Riverside County
- ❑ 2020 - Solano and Imperial Counties
- ❑ 2021 - Alameda, Santa Barbara and Lake Counties; City of Berkeley
- ❑ 2021 (Pilot) – San Mateo County

What is a MEHKO?

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Home/Apartment/Condo
Based Restaurant

30 meals/day or 60 meals/week
\$50K in gross sales



Dine In, Pick-Up, Delivery



Health Permit Required
Annual Routine Inspection
Complaint Investigations
Food Borne Illness Investigations

Regulatory Oversight

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- Department of Environmental Health and Quality
 - ▣ CRFC Enforcement
 - ▣ Food Safety
 - ▣ Vermin – Internal
 - ▣ Food Debris/Refuse Buildup
 - ▣ Daily/Weekly Sales
 - ▣ Gross Income Verification
- City/Unincorporated
 - ▣ Local Land Use Ordinance Enforcement
 - ▣ Signage
 - ▣ Noise
 - ▣ Nuisances
 - ▣ Traffic/Parking
 - ▣ Non-Food Debris/Refuse Build Up
 - ▣ Construction/Remodeling

Current Program Status

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- Board Action - September 15th
- DEHQ directed to:
 - Return to the board in 120 days with an ordinance to authorize MEHKOs.
 - Conduct community outreach and local municipality outreach.
 - Implement a public education program for MEHKO operators.

Local MEHKO Program Options

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DEHQ will be presenting the following options for consideration by the Board of Supervisors:

- Authorize a MEHKO program
- Authorize a temporary (pilot) MEHKO program
- Do not authorize a MEHKO program

Ordinance Components

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TOPIC	STATE LAW PRESCRIBED PROGRAM PARAMETERS	LOCAL ORDINANCE OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS
FOOD SAFETY CERTIFICATE	Required to Obtain a Food Safety Cert within 60 Days	Enhanced Educational Requirements (Food Safety Certificates and Food Handler Cards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require the Food Safety Certificate be submitted as part of the application • Allow the Food Safety Certificate to be obtained within 60 days of permitting
ALLOWABLE FOOD STORAGE AREAS	Food Storage Areas are Part of the MEHKO Permit	Specify Allowable “Food Storage” Locations. Define Where Food Can and Cannot Be Stored in a Home for Food Safety/Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit to just occupiable space (ex. non-bedrooms, pantries, kitchen, etc.) • Allow non-occupiable space (ex. garages, outdoor sheds, workshops, etc.)

Ordinance Components

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TOPIC	STATE LAW PRESCRIBED PROGRAM PARAMETERS	LOCAL ORDINANCE OPTIONS	CONSIDERATIONS
INSPECTION FREQUENCY	No More Than One Routine Inspection Per Year	Annual Inspection Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the inspection frequency at one time per year • Reduce the frequency to less than one time per year • Require no annual inspections
NUMBER OF MEALS – DAILY/WEEKLY	Max 30 Meals Per Day/60 Meals Per Week	Operational Capacity for Meal Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make no change to the maximum number of meals served • Reduce the number of meals served based on kitchen capacity
POTABLE WATER (Private Wells)	Must Meet Transient Noncommunity Water System Requirements	How Water is Determined to Meet Transient Noncommunity Standards	<p>Initial Testing Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require full panel test (bacteria, metals, nitrates) • Require only bacteriological testing <p>Renewal Testing Options/Frequency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require a full panel of testing annually • Require a full panel of testing quarterly • Require only bacteriological testing annually • Require only bacteriological testing quarterly

Questions and Feedback

If you have additional questions, please feel free to visit our website below or email our team directly.

□ www.sdcdehq.org

□ Food Program - Home Kitchen
Operations

□ FHDMEHKO@sdcounty.ca.gov