

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

GARMENT MANUFACTURING, WIPING RAGS AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (EH), is proposing changes to the Los Angeles County Code, Title 8 – Consumer Protection, Business, and Wage Regulations; Division 1 – Public Health Licenses. These changes impact permit, plan check, and service fees that are collected under the authority of State and County Codes to carry out duties that protect public health and safety.

Overview of Programs

EH permits and inspects these businesses for sanitation and worker health and safety requirements. The requirements are in place to control the possible spread of infectious disease and to ensure adequate safety protection for workers.

- **Garment manufacturing facility** is a location where apparel and other garments and accessories are cut, sewn, assembled, embroidered, silk screened, or otherwise made, decorated, or finished, from fabrics and similar materials.
- **Laundry facilities** range from coin or card-operated self-serve laundromats where people wash their own clothes to large commercial facilities that clean sheets and towels for businesses like hospitals. It is important for all laundry facilities to be clean and to meet sanitation requirements that protect public health and reduce the spread of infectious diseases.
- **Wiping rag facilities** are those that launder, sanitize, or package wiping rags, as defined in California Health and Safety Code section 118450. For purposes of permitting, these are considered commercial laundry facilities.

EH responds to complaints at garment manufacturing, laundry and wiping rag facilities to verify compliance with Los Angeles County Code and California Health and Safety Code.

Why are the fees changing now?

Fees were last increased in 2018. While fees have remained the same, operational costs have increased annually due to negotiated employee salaries and benefits, along with inflation. From FY 19/20 through FY 25/26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 25%, and cost-of-living increases approved for County workers totaled 20.5%. Yet fees have remained at 2018 levels despite these cost increases.

A comprehensive fee study was conducted along with an evaluation of current operational costs and the fee levels required to cover those costs. The study reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with program administration, inspection, oversight and enforcement. The fee analysis structure was validated

by the LA County Auditor-Controller. The last comprehensive fee study for EH programs was conducted in 2011.

What are the fee changes?

EH eliminated size categories for garment manufacturing establishments and laundries, and reclassified wiping rag businesses as commercial laundries. A summary of the proposed fees is listed below. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the new fees will go into effect December 15, 2026. Existing permitted businesses will receive a supplemental invoice for any increases in annual health permit fees for Fiscal Year 26/27, and existing businesses where annual permit fee decreased will receive a credit during the FY27/28 annual health permit billing.

To minimize the impact of future increases, starting in FY 27/28, fees will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with no fee exceeding the reasonable cost of providing services.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
GARMENT MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENT: A location where apparel and other garments and accessories are cut, sewed, assembled, embroidered, silk screened, or otherwise made, decorated, or finished, from fabrics and similar materials.	\$597	\$458
GARMENT MANUFACTURING COMPLEX	\$772	\$769
COMMERCIAL LAUNDRY	\$299	\$273
LAUNDRY SELF-SERVICE	\$186	\$291

SERVICE FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
GARMENT – PUBLIC HEALTH LICENSE WAIVER LETTER REQUEST: State licensed clothing shops that do not manufacture need a waiver from permitting. EH conducts a site evaluation for waiver approval.	\$286	\$241

Visit our website to learn more about [Garment Manufacturing](#), [Laundry Facilities](#) and [Wiping Rag Businesses](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

