

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

MOBILE FOOD 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 Program

EH is responsible for enforcing the California Retail Food Code, a California state law codified in California Health and Safety Code, starting at §113700. The primary purpose is to set minimum standards to safeguard public health and to provide consumers with food that is safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented. This includes food that is prepared for retail sale under the definitions of a Mobile Food Facility, Compact Mobile Food Operation or a Commissary. EH will issue permits for MFFs, CMFOs and commissaries for Los Angeles County, except in the cities of Pasadena, Long Beach, and Vernon, which have their own environmental health departments.

A **Mobile Food Facility (MFF)** is a vehicle that food is sold from, such as a large cart, trailer, or food truck. An MFF can operate on the street. There are low, moderate, and high-risk MFFs, which are based on the food preparation conducted. Additionally, mobile food facilities are utilized for preparing meals for the television and motion picture crews when on location.

A **Compact Mobile Food Operation (CMFO)** is a type of MFF that may conduct limited food preparation in accordance with the California Retail Food Code (CRFC). Examples of CMFOs include pushcarts, pedal-driven carts, or other nonmotorized conveyances that operate on the sidewalk.

A **Commissary** is a food facility that supports MFFs or vending machines, in which food, equipment, and/or supplies are stored or handled, food is prepared or prepackaged for sale, utensils are cleaned, liquid or solid wastes are disposed of, and potable water is obtained.

EH inspects and permits MFFs, CMFOs and commissaries focusing on food safety practices and determining compliance with the requirements.

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?

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 MOBILE FOOD FACILITIES PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPE	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, LOW RISK: A sidewalk food cart that can sell only prepackaged non-perishable food or prepackaged frozen ice cream	\$126	\$150
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, MODERATE RISK: Sidewalk food cart selling prepackaged perishable food or conducting limited food preparation (no raw fish, poultry, meat)	\$299	\$359
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, HIGH RISK: Sidewalk food cart that can conduct limited food preparation, including raw animal proteins (fish, poultry, meat)	\$592	\$774
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, AUXILIARY UNIT SITE SPECIFIC: Cart that provides hand washing and/or utensil washing facilities to support a sidewalk food cart	\$487	\$487
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, LOW RISK: Food vehicle that operates from the street and offers only prepackaged food, or whole produce	\$325	\$402
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, MODERATE RISK: Food vehicle that operates from street and conducts limited food preparation	\$598	\$815
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, HIGH RISK: Food vehicle that operates from street and provides a full menu of prepared food with extensive food handling	\$761	\$1,006
INDEPENDENT MILK DELIVERY VEHICLE: Food vehicle that delivers milk products	\$127	\$227

MOBILE SUPPORT UNIT: Vehicle that provides support to a CMFO to bring supplies, refill water tanks, provide cleaning and dispose of wastewater and trash	\$313	\$374
COMMISSARY, STORAGE FACILITY: Facility used only for storage of mobile food vehicles, food carts, or vending machines, with no other services	\$274	\$469
COMMISSARY, FOOD STORAGE AND CLEANING FACILITY: Facility used for storage of mobile food vehicles, food carts, or vending machines, including storage of food items and food equipment cleaning facilities	\$401	\$784
COMMISSARY, CLEANING AND STORAGE FACILITY: Facility used for storage of mobile food vehicles, food carts, or vending machines, including storage of food items and food equipment cleaning facilities	\$310	\$515
COMMISSARY, FOOD PREP 1-10 MOBILE FOOD FACILITIES: Facility used for food preparation, cleaning food equipment, food storage, dumping wastewater, storage and cleaning of food vehicles, food carts, or vending machines	\$678	\$897
COMMISSARY, FOOD PREP 11+ MOBILE FOOD FACILITY	\$779	\$1,297
MOTION PICTURE FOOD SERVICE-OPERATIONS: Mobile food vehicle that provides a full menu of prepared food and meals, including outdoor limited food preparation, to motion picture cast and crew at licensed film locations, with up to two mobile storage vehicles	\$1,160	\$1,222
MOTION PICTURE CRAFT FOOD SERVICES: A temporary food service area, which may include a low risk MFF, that provides snacks and beverages to motion picture cast and crew at a licensed film location	NEW	\$339

PLAN CHECK FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
CMFO APPROVED MODEL PLAN FINAL EVAL PREPACKED: Evaluation of sidewalk food cart that only sells prepackaged food and was built from an approved standard plan	\$246	\$396
CMFO APPROVED MODEL PLAN FINAL EVAL UNPACKAGED: Evaluation of sidewalk food cart that can sell open food, including limited food preparation, and was built from an approved standard plan	\$285	\$494
AUXILIARY CONVEYANCE, SITE-SPECIFIC: Plan review to determine if auxiliary cart that provides hand washing and/or utensil washing facilities for a sidewalk food cart which offers food prepared from raw proteins state law requirements	\$167	\$367
MOBILE SUPPORT UNIT: Plan review to determine if vehicle that provides support to a CMFO to bring supplies, refill water tanks, provide cleaning and dispose of wastewater and trash, meets state law requirements	\$441	\$540

COMMISSARY- CLEANING AND/OR STORAGE FACILITY	\$402	\$757
COMMISSARY- FOOD PREPARATION, HIGH RISK	\$796	\$1752
COMMISSARY- FOOD STORAGE AND CLEANING FACILITY	\$546	\$714
CMFO- PREPACKAGED POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS FOOD: Plan review to determine if sidewalk food carts that sell prepackaged perishable food meets state law requirements	\$439	\$651
CMFO-UNPACKAGED FOOD: Plan review to determine if sidewalk food carts that sell perishable, unpackaged food (including limited food preparation) meets state law requirements	\$633	\$893
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, HIGH RISK: Plan review to determine if food vehicle that has a full menu of prepared food, using raw animal proteins (fish, poultry, meat), meets state law requirements	\$741	\$1,307
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, MODERATE RISK: Plan review to determine if food vehicle providing limited food preparation of animal proteins, such as fish and poultry (meats precooked in permanent food facility) meets state law requirements	\$544	\$1,089
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, LOW RISK: Plan review to determine if food vehicle that offers only prepackaged food, or whole produce meets state law requirements	\$544	\$658

SERVICE FEES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
CMFO-SITE EVALUATION FOR HOME STORAGE: Site evaluation to determine if storage area at residential property can safely store a sidewalk food cart	\$199	\$264
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY (OWNER INITIATED INSPECTION) - LOW RISK: Voluntary request by owner for a new inspection to improve the letter grade or numerical score	\$289	\$420
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY (OWNER INITIATED INSPECTION) - MODERATE RISK	\$326	\$437
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY (OWNER INITIATED INSPECTION) - HIGH RISK	\$416	\$471

FEE COMPARSION BY COUNTY

The proposed fees are consistent with those of comparable jurisdictions when accounting for differences in scale and scope. Given Los Angeles County's large population and extensive inspection and service responsibilities, the proposed fees are appropriately aligned with comparable jurisdictions.

PERMIT FEES	LOS ANGELES PROPOSED NEW FEE	PASADENA	LONG BEACH	ORANGE	RIVERSIDE	VENTURA	SAN DIEGO	SAN BERNARDINO
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, LOW RISK	\$150	\$287	\$325	\$188	\$185	\$67	\$228	\$282
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, MODERATE RISK	\$359	\$502	\$325 - \$800	\$247 - \$494	\$210	\$487	\$228 - \$516	\$426
COMPACT MOBILE FOOD OPERATION, HIGH RISK	\$774	N/A	\$800	\$765	N/A	\$623	\$516	\$426
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, LOW RISK	\$402	\$522	\$496	\$188	\$463	\$258 - \$366	\$228	\$307
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, MODERATE RISK	\$815	\$739	\$496 - \$1,051	\$247 - \$494	\$665	\$487	\$253 - 760	\$585
MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, HIGH RISK	\$1,006	\$1,112	\$1,051	\$765	\$813	\$623	\$760	\$901
PC-COMPACT MOBILE FOOD PREPACKAGED PHF FOOD	\$651	\$368	\$512	\$565	\$697	\$756	\$293	\$826
PC-COMPACT MOBILE FOOD UNPACKAGED FOOD	\$893	\$368	\$512 - \$1,339	\$565	\$697	\$756	\$518	\$826 - \$851
PC-MOBILE FOOD FACILITY, MODERATE RISK	\$1,089	\$606	\$512 - \$1,339	\$565	\$746	\$756	\$545	\$901

Visit our website to learn more about [Mobile Food Facilities](#) and [Compact Mobile Food Operations](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.



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