



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION**

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**VETERANS EXEMPTION - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

**1. What documentation is needed to apply for a Veteran's Exemption?**

A veteran must complete the *Affidavit for Veteran's Exemption* form and attach it to the following documents:

1. Veteran's proof of honorable discharge (DD 214)
2. Proof that the Veteran business owner is a sole proprietor (not an LLC, Inc., or any other type of corporation). Proof can be a business license, a Board of Equalization Identification Number or a copy of the Veteran's Business Lease.
3. Proof of personal identification, such as a driver's license, passport or similar form of identification acceptable to Environmental Health Services.

**2. What fees would be exempted under the Veteran's Exemption?**

Fees exempted are: the standard Food Facility Plan Check fees, the standard Plan Check Consultations fees and the Public Health Permit to Operate a Food Facility Fees.

Note: Exemptions will **NOT** apply to any fees related to expedited plan review, expedited plan check inspections, after hours inspections, regrades, additional re-inspections or late fees.

**3. Does the Veteran's Exemption apply to a food facility that sells alcohol/ liquor?**

No. The Veteran's Exemption does not apply to a Veteran's food facility that engages in the sale of alcohol (i.e. spirituous malt, vinous or other intoxicating liquor malts).

**4. Can the business be owned by two people and still qualify for the Veteran's Exemption?**

No, unless both persons are Veterans who qualify for a Veteran's Exemption.

**5. What is the most common reason why a Veteran's Exemption is denied?**

The business is not owned by a sole owner (i.e. no sole proprietorship).

**6. Under what circumstances are fees refunded if a Veteran's Exemption is approved after it is paid for?**

Fees paid by a Veteran **BEFORE** being formally approved for a Veteran's Exemption will **NOT** be refunded. A Veteran has the option to wait for the Veteran's Exemption to be reviewed and approved before applying and paying for a permit and starting operations. If approved, fees previously paid will not be refunded; permit fees will be exempted for the next unpaid billing cycle.

**7. A Veteran business owner initiated the plan check process and paid the plan check fees; it was later learned that the Veteran may qualify for a Veteran's Exemption. Can the Veteran's fees be refunded?**

As stated above, fees paid by a Veteran **BEFORE** being formally approved for a Veteran's Exemption will **NOT** be refunded. If a Veteran's Exemption is approved, permit fees will be exempted for the next unpaid billing cycle.

**8. A Veteran business owner obtained a Public Health Permit to operate a food facility three months ago. The Veteran later learned that he/she may qualify for a Veteran's Exemption from permit fees. Can the paid fees be refunded?**

As stated above, fees paid by a Veteran **BEFORE** being formally approved for a Veteran's Exemption will **NOT** be refunded. If a Veteran's Exemption is approved, permit fees will be exempted for the next unpaid billing cycle.

**9. Can Veterans operate multiple businesses and still be exempted from permit fees?**

Yes, Veterans can take advantage of the exemption at multiple businesses, as long as they are listed as the sole proprietor of each business.