



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Food Distribution at Breweries and Wineries Frequently Asked Questions

Does my brewery or winery need a Health Permit from San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services (EHS)?

- **NO**, if you sell or serve pallet cleansers such as crackers, pretzels or pre-packaged food items that are non-perishable and do not exceed 25 sq. ft. The California Retail Food Code (Cal Code) exempts this small quantity of food distribution.
- **YES**, if you sell or serve pallet cleansers or prepackaged food that is non-perishable and exceeds 25 sq. ft. or serve food that is perishable. The food service section of your establishment must meet all construction and equipment standards of Cal Code and be approved by an EHS plan check.
- **YES**, if you are a Host Facility for Caterers. Your establishment must meet all construction and equipment standards in Cal Code and be approved by an EHS plan check.

Can my customers bring in their own food or have food delivered from a permitted restaurant?

YES, with your permission, customers can bring in prepared food for their own consumption or order food and have it delivered to them at your brewery or urban winery.

Can I sell Cottage Food at my brewery or winery?

YES, permitted cottage food operators produce pre-packaged, non-perishable foods that can be sold at breweries and urban wineries. A health permit will be required for the Cottage Food Operator and your facility.

Are Temporary Food Vendors or Caterers allowed to sell food outside of my brewery or winery?

- **Temporary Food Vendors** are only allowed to operate at permitted **community events** in conjunction with a Temporary Event Organizer. A **Community Event** is defined as an event that is civic, political, public, or educational in nature as approved by San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health.
- **Caterers** who meet the requirement of Cal Code for direct sales are permitted to operate at permitted **Host Facilities** serving food directly to tasting room customers during tasting room hours. All catering dishes and equipment shall be properly washed and stored at the catering commissary.

Are mobile food facilities (food trucks or food carts) allowed to sell food outside my brewery or winery?

YES, permitted mobile food facilities may operate on the private property at your establishment, or as allowed by local zoning and code ordinances. The mobile unit must display a current EHS permit sticker and have a valid health permit. Vendors operating the units must have access to a commercial restroom during the time period they operate at your brewery.

How can I tell what kind of permit my vendor has?

You may request to see a copy of their health permit. San Luis Obispo County permits display the type of food facility and the expiration date on each certificate. You can also contact this office if you are unsure.

Who can I call or email with questions?

For more information regarding options for food service at your brewery or winery, please contact this office at (805) 781-5544 during business hours or visit our website at www.slocounty.ca.gov/ehs.