



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

2156 Sierra Way STE. B, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: (805) 781-5544 Fax: (805) 781-4211

Email: ehs@co.slo.ca.us

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.