

# I want to start a food vending operation, what permit do I need?

PHF: Potentially Hazardous Foods  
 NON PHF: Nonpotentially Hazardous Foods  
 CMFO: Compact Mobile Food Operation that conducts limited food preparation  
 Motorized: Fully enclosed vehicles or fully enclosed trailers towed by a vehicle  
 Enclosed: The operator works inside of a truck or trailer  
 Unenclosed: The operator is not inside the operation

What type of food operation do you have?

Nonmotorized and Unenclosed

Enclosed and Motorized or towed by motorized vehicle

What do you plan to prepare and sell?

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Prepackaged food items

Open food with limited food preparation

Prepackaged food items

Open food preparation

Prepackaged non PHF

Prepackaged PHF

NOT cooking raw meat

Cooking raw meat

Limited food preparation

Full food preparation\*\*\*

Permit may not be required\*

Low risk CMFO/Cart\*\*

Medium risk CMFO/Cart\*\*

High risk CMFO/Cart\*\*

Low risk MFF/Vehicle

Medium risk MFF/Vehicle

High risk MFF/Vehicle

\*Contact us to discuss your requirements  
 \*\*If a CMFO suits your needs, check out our [CMFO Risk Flyer](#).

- \*\*\*Full food preparation includes:
- Thawing
  - Slicing and chopping of PHF
  - Grinding raw ingredients or PHF
  - Handling of any dairy or dairy products
  - Washing of foods
  - Cooking PHF for later use
  - Cooling of cooked PHF

Limited food preparation includes cutting fruit, steaming hot dogs, preparing coffee, shaved ice, etc. For a full definition for Limited Food Preparation, please see CalCode Ch. 2 113818

Plan check may be required for low risk operations.  
 Plan check is required for all medium and high risk operations.  
 For any questions, please contact Environmental Health Services at (800) 442-2283.

