

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

WHOLESALE FOOD

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 Los Angeles County Code, Title 11, Chapter 11.11 and 11.12 and California Health and Safety Code, Division 104, Part 6, Chapter 4. The primary purpose is to verify that food manufactured, stored, distributed, and sold at the wholesale level is safe, properly handled, and complies with applicable food safety laws.

A **Food Processing Establishment** is any room, building, or place that is maintained, used, or operated for the purpose of commercially packaging, making, cooking, baking, mixing, processing, bottling, canning, slaughtering, salvaging, storing or otherwise preparing or handling food including ice, for human or animal consumption, which is not offered for retail sale or gift on the premises. It cannot act as a retail commissary.

A **Wholesale Food Market** business is an establishment, from which food (including whole fruits and vegetables) is received, shipped, or sold for resale by others. This establishment is not permitted to conduct sales at retail level or process food.

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 WHOLESALE FOOD PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
FOOD MARKET WHOLESALE: A wholesale food facility where food (including fruits and vegetables) is received, shipped, stored, prepared for distribution to a retailer, warehouse, distributor, or other destination	\$984	\$1,511
FOOD MARKET WHOLESALE COMPLEX: A wholesale business with multiple, separate wholesale food markets that operate within the same complex	\$1,438	\$1,548
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (Less than 2000 SQ. FT.): A food establishment that prepares, processes and packages food for wholesale distribution to retailers.	\$2,300	\$2,369
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (2,000-5,999 SQ. FT.)	\$2,707	\$2,451
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (6,000 + SQ. FT.)	\$3,018	\$2,454
FOOD PROCESSING LOW RISK: A food establishment that only prepares, processes and packages a final product that is non-perishable for wholesale distribution to retailers	\$1,098	\$835
SHARED KITCHEN COMPLEX - TENANT WHOLESALE FOOD PROCESSOR (ANNUAL): A food business that leases kitchen space within a Shared Kitchen Complex for wholesale to third party retailers	\$222	\$479
SHARED KITCHEN COMPLEX - TENANT WHOLESALE FOOD PROCESSOR (SEMI-ANNUAL): A food business that leases a kitchen space within a Shared Kitchen Complex on a short-term basis to prepare food for wholesale commerce to third party retailers	\$110	\$278
FOOD WAREHOUSE (Up to 4,999 SQ. FT.): A wholesale food business that stores prepackaged food for distribution to retailers.	\$405	\$387



FOOD WAREHOUSE (5,000 + SQ. FT.):	\$445	\$462
FOOD SALVAGER: A food business that provides salvaged packaged food products that have been relabeled, repackaged, or cleaned and determined safe for human consumption	\$2,090	\$642

PLAN CHECK FEES Includes initial review of plans, one review of corrections, preliminary site inspection and one final inspection	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
FOOD WAREHOUSE (500 SQ.FT. OR LESS): A plan review to determine if a wholesale food warehouse that only stores and processes prepackaged food to retailers meets county code requirements.	\$858	\$1,034
FOOD WAREHOUSE (501-4,999 SQ.FT.)	\$1,007	\$1,394
FOOD WAREHOUSE (5,000-9,999 SQ.FT.)	\$1,157	\$1,588
FOOD WAREHOUSE (10,000 SF OR MORE)	\$1,268	\$1,868
FOOD MARKET WHOLESALE: A plan review to determine if a wholesale food facility meets county code requirements.	\$1,500	\$1,538
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (1 - 1999 SQ.FT.): A plan review to determine if establishment that prepares, processes and packages food for wholesale distribution to retailers meets county code requirements.	\$1,754	\$1,794
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (2,000-5,999 SQ.FT.)	\$2,164	\$2,069
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (6,000 SQ.FT. OR GREATER)	\$2,586	\$2,408
FOOD SALVAGER: A plan review to determine if business meets county code requirements.	\$534	\$1,394

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	ORANGE
FOOD MARKET WHOLESALE	\$1,511	\$1,586-\$2,768
FOOD SALVAGER	\$642	\$278
FOOD PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT (1 - 1999 SQ.FT.)	\$1,794	\$1,586

Visit our website to learn more about [Wholesale Food](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

