



MICROENTERPRISE HOME KITCHENS

A State law was recently enacted which allows microenterprise home kitchen operations (MEHKO) in counties that specifically permit them. The county must pass an ordinance to 'opt in' to the program, otherwise a MEHKO cannot be permitted by the Environmental Health Division.

A microenterprise home kitchen operation is defined as a food facility that is operated by a resident in a private home where food is stored, handled, prepared, and served to consumers. Food can be consumed onsite, picked up or be delivered. There are specific restrictions, for example, the number of meals served per day and appropriate facilities for food storage and preparation.

To date, no ordinance is in effect in Ventura County to allow a MEHKO to be permitted. Therefore, the Environmental Health Division cannot accept applications at this time.