



California Department of Public Health Food and Drug Branch



Organic Food Processors

Laws relating to the handling of Organic Foods are described in the California Organic Products Act of 2003. The law requires every person to obtain an Organic Processed Product Registration (OPPR) if they process or handle processed food "sold as organic". The term, "Sold as organic" means any use of the terms "organic", "organically grown", or like terms. It includes any food grown, handled, processed, sold, or offered for sale in this state. The term "sold as organic" also applies to use of these terms in labeling or advertising of any food.

Organic food processors are required to have both, an Organic Processed Products Registration (OPPR) and a Processed Food Registration (PFR), unless specifically exempted. Fees are required for both certificates and they must be renewed annually. Not all handlers of organic processed food products have a food processing facility. Brokers, importers, or those selling organic product which are produced on their behalf by a processor or copacker, must register under OPPR. No PFR is required provided that the firm does not take custody of the products.

Organic processors must also be approved by an accredited third party certification organization. The certifiers name must be identified on the information panel of the product label.

Links: [Processed Food Registration \(PFR\) program](#)
[Processed Food Registration Application request](#)
[Organic Processed Products Registration Application and Fees](#)
California Health and Safety Code (general food laws): [Section 109875 - 111915](#)
California Health and Safety Code (Organic Foods Act): [Section 110810-110959](#)
Federal Regulations, Good Manufacturing Practice [GMP] ([21 CFR, Part 110](#))