California Health and Safety Code Section 114365.5 authorizes the Department to add or remove food products from the Approved Food List at its discretion.

Cottage food operators may request that the Department consider adding a food product to the Approved Food List by submitting an application, “Request to Add Food Product to the Approved Food List” to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) by mail or email. The application is available on the CDPH website via the link below.

CDPH will evaluate and respond to all requests received. Careful evaluation of the food will be given before any food will be considered for addition to the Approved Food List. Requestors will be notified in writing of the Department’s decision.

CDPH will post a Notice of Proposed Change to the Approved Food List on its website on or about December 2nd and June 1st of each year. CDPH will receive comments for twenty (20) days from the date of posting and will consider all public input provided on the proposed change. After reviewing public comments received, CDPH will either (1) add the new food items to the Approved Food List on or about the January 1st and July 1st following the posting of the Notice of Proposed Change; or (2) post a notification that CDPH has opted to withdraw all or part of the proposed amendments after reviewing and considering all public comments.

The changes to the Approved Food List will go into effect 30 days after the Notice of Proposed Change to the Approved Food List is posted on the CDPH website.

In order to allow sufficient time for CDPH to receive requests and evaluate them for posting by January 1, 2021, the submission deadline for applications is October 15, 2020.

Cottage food operators should submit a separate application for each class of food product that is being requested for addition to the list. Please do not submit recipes or formulations. Please provide a brief description of the food, method of production, and type of packaging. Submission of the application does not guarantee approval by CDPH.

You can access the application at the CDPH Cottage Food website.