



General requirements for Internet Food Service Intermediaries

(CDPH-FDB registration required)



An “internet food service intermediary” (IFSI) is defined under Section 114367(b) the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) as an entity that provides a platform on its Internet Web site or mobile application through which a microenterprise home kitchen operation (MEHKO) may offer food for sale and from which the internet food service intermediary derives revenues, including, but not limited to, revenues from advertising and fees for services offered to a microenterprise home kitchen operation.

Services offered by an IFSI to a MEHKO may include, but are not limited to, allowing a MEHKO to advertise its food for sale and providing a means for potential consumers to arrange payment for the food, whether the consumer pays directly to the microenterprise home kitchen operation or to the Internet food service intermediary.

IFSIs are required to obtain a registration from the California Department of Public Health – Food and Drug Branch prior to advertising or promoting MEHKOs on their internet web site or mobile application. On January 1, 2019, CDPH-FDB will begin accepting applications for [internet food service intermediary's registration applications](#). Mail completed registration applications to:

California Department of Public Health
Food and Drug Branch – Retail Food Program
P.O. Box 997435, MS 7602
Sacramento, CA 95899-7435

In addition to obtaining a registration, the general requirements for Internet Food Service Intermediaries under the California Retail Food Code (CRFC) Chapter 11.6 include:

- Inform microenterprise home kitchen operations utilizing the IFSI website or mobile application of all requirements specified in CRFC Chapter 11.6 prior to the publication of the microenterprise home kitchen operation’s offer of food for sale.
- Conspicuously post how a consumer can report to the IFSI a food safety complaint to the Internet food service intermediary and with the local enforcement agency.
- Be required to submit the name and permit number of a microenterprise home kitchen operation to the local enforcement agency if it receives three or more unrelated individual food safety-related complaints consumers that has made a purchase through its Internet Web site or mobile application.
- Clearly state their fees associated with the amount being charged for the services on its Internet website or mobile application.
- Conspicuously post on its Internet website or mobile application if they have liability insurance that covers any incidences arising from the sale or consumption of food listed or promoted.
- Provide on its platform a dedicated location for a MEHKO to post their permit number.