



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

Memo providing Guidance of Cottage Food Businesses

This memo provides guidance for allowable foods to be produced and sold from a Cottage Food Business located in Maryland. COMAR 10.15.03 defines a cottage food as a business that a) Produces or packages cottage food products in a residential kitchen; and b) has annual revenues from the sale of cottage food products in an amount not exceeding \$25,000. Additionally, it further defines a Cottage Food Product as being a non-potentially hazardous food as specified in COMAR 10.15.03.27 that is offered for sale only at a farmer's market or public event. The following are examples of foods that may be permitted for sale from a Cottage Food Business.

Examples of Allowable Foods that may be produced under COMAR 10.15.03.27 Farmer's Market, Bake Sales, and Cottage Food Business:

- Breads and Pastries without potentially hazardous topping or fillings:
 - Pies, turnovers, and fruit tarts from fruits with a natural pH of 4.6 or less
 - Baked bread, biscuits, and muffins
 - Cakes and cupcakes
- Canned acid foods such as:
 - Fruit Jelly, jam, and preserves from the fruits with a natural pH of 4.6 or less
 - Fruit butters from apple, apricot, grape, peach, plum, prune, quince
- Popcorn/Kettle Corn
- Granola
- Repackaging of commercially processed dry ingredients (i.e. spice blends)
- Chocolate confections made from commercially manufactured chocolate (i.e. Chocolate covered pretzels). **Chocolate covered fresh fruits are prohibited.**
- Candy such as lollipops, gummy bears, or fruit leathers with a natural pH of 4.6 or less
- Raw Unflavored Honey

If the above foods are produced under the cottage foods regulation these products may only be sold at a farmers market or public event (Internet sales as well as interstate sales are prohibited) and the operator must:

- Pre-package all products at the cottage food business
- Provide a label that contains the following information:
 - The name and address of the cottage food business;
 - The name of the cottage food product;

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- The ingredients of the cottage food product in descending order of the amount of each ingredient by weight;
- The net weight or net volume of the cottage food product;
- Allergen information as specified by federal labeling requirements;
- Nutritional information as specified by federal labeling requirements, if any nutritional information claim is made
- Printed in 10 point or larger type in a color that provides a clear contrast to the background of the label:
“Made by a cottage food business that is not subject to Maryland’s food safety regulations.”

It is our intention that each approving authority will enforce and regulate these business consistently and uniformly as stated in the regulations. If you should have any questions, please contact the Office of Food Protection at (410) 767-8400.

