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Wholesale Food FAQs

1. What is a wholesale food facility?

A wholesale food facility is one that prepares or otherwise handles foods but does not sell directly to end users. These facilities typically sell their products to retailers or other wholesalers.

2. Does Environmental Health regulate wholesale facilities?

No. If they have retail component onsite, Environmental Health will regulate that aspect of the business, but State or Federal agencies regulate the wholesale operation.

3. What agencies regulate whole food operations?

- **California Department of Public Health – Food and Drug Branch**

Manufacturing plants, canning operations, retail to retail sales, produce, seafood

- **California Department of Food and Agriculture**

Poultry plants, facilities that smoke, cure, dry, or render animal products

- **California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control**

Manufacturers and distributors of beer, wine, and spirits

- **U.S Department of Agriculture**

Meat and poultry

- **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**

Imported foods, manufacturing plants, seafood

- **CalOSHA**

Workplace safety.

4. How can I contact the agencies that regulate wholesale foods?

- California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control <https://www.abc.ca.gov/>
- California Department of Food and Agriculture <https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/>
- California Department of Public Health – Food and Drug Branch
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CEH/DFDCS/Pages/FoodandDrugBranch.aspx>
- CalOSHA <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture <https://www.usda.gov/>
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration <https://www.fda.gov/>