

# Do I need a Commercial Feed License?



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Topic	Activities of the Facility/Business	License Required?
Jurisdiction	I distribute commercial feed within and/or <u>into</u> California (even if my location is outside of California) and I am not otherwise eligible for exemptions.	✓
	My facility is manufacturing feed within California, however 100% of the product is exported out of the state or country.	✗
Exemptions	I (distribute/manufacture/sell/store) only whole hay and/or whole grain without any further processing such as mixing, chopping, or rolling.	✗
	I am only engaged in the transportation of feed (i.e., trucking company) as a common carrier and do not take ownership of, sell, store, or handle the feed.	✗
	I am a retail store selling only packaged feeds which are labeled by licensed manufacturers who pay the inspection tonnage tax.	✗
	I am a farm/producer that does not sell feed. I (manufacture/store/distribute) feed which is 100% fed to animals which I own.	✗
	I am a farm/producer, vertical integrator, or feedlot and manufacture/store/distribute feed BOTH for animals which I own and to outside customers and/or animals which I do not own.	✓
Ingredients	I distribute single ingredient commodities such as almond hulls, canola meal, and soybean meal.	✓
	I distribute feed additives such as preservatives and binders.	✓

Topic	Activities of the Facility/Business	License Required?
Species	I (distribute/manufacture/sell/store) feed for animal species utilized for human consumption or economic gain, including but not limited to: beef, swine, dairy, sheep, goats, poultry, laying hens, gamebirds, rabbits, honeybees and horses, and am not otherwise eligible for exemptions.	✓
	I only (distribute/manufacture/sell/store) feed for domestic pet species such as dogs, cats, exotic birds, and rodents which is solely intended for and specifically labeled as “pet food”.	✗
Toll Manufacturing, Selling Under Label Name	I contract a feed mill to manufacture and distribute feed for my company with my name on the label. <i>(I need to obtain a license at both my headquarters address and the address of the feed mill manufacturing the feed).</i>	✓
	I contract a feed mill to manufacture feed for my company and then I physically receive all of the product prior to distribution to the customer. <i>(I need a license for my location(s), but not at the contracted feed mill.)</i>	✓
	I open sacks of feed at my facility/store to allow for "by-the-pound" sales and/or I re-package commercial feed from another manufacturer, requiring my name to be on the label.	✓
	I receive material in bulk and re-sell and/or package the feed, requiring my name to be on the label.	✓
Brokers, Offices	I do not physically store, manufacture, or distribute feed at this location; however I conduct invoicing/billing from this office/home/other location.	✓
	This is an extra/secondary office location where no feed is stored, manufactured, or distributed and it is NOT the billing address for the company.	✗
	I am a broker who contracts, invoices, and buys/sells commercial feed without ever physically handling the product.	✓

Topic	Activities of the Facility/Business	License Required?
Human Food Processing/ Manufacturing Facilities	I am a human food facility producing a by-product which is diverted to commercial feed.	✓
	All of the by-products I produce are distributed by a licensed broker. <i>(I still need a license because I am the manufacturer of a product intended for commercial feed. The broker ALSO needs a license.)</i>	✓
Human Food Retail, Restaurants	I am a retail store or restaurant selling food originally intended for human consumption ONLY. Any and all recovered food (past sell-by date, off spec, etc.) that may be diverted to animal feed is collected by a commercial feed licensee.	✗
	I am a retail store or restaurant and I sell and/or donate excess/expired/off-spec human food directly to livestock producers/customers.	✓