



Maple and Honey Exemption Guidance

Section 276.4 Exemptions.

(a) *Maple syrup and honey.* Processors of maple syrup or honey who do not purchase maple syrup or honey from others for repackaging, and who do not combine maple syrup or honey with any other ingredients capable of supporting the growth of infectious or toxigenic organisms, shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of Article 20-C of the Agriculture and Markets Law, provided that such establishments are maintained in a sanitary condition and manner, and that the following requirements are complied with.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets’ Division of Food Safety and Inspection has determined the following criteria are required for a product to qualify under this exemption:

- *The product must be predominantly made with maple syrup or honey (greater than 50% by weight).*
- *The added ingredients must be non-potentially hazardous, which means the ingredient itself must have a pH below 4.6 and/or a water activity of 0.85 or below.*
- *The finished product must not require refrigeration before opening.*
- *The finished product must be properly labeled.*

If the product or ingredient does not fit the criteria above, a 20-C Food Processing license will be required. Furthermore, a process review conducted by a process authority may be required to ensure your product's safety. A list of processing authorities can be found at agriculture.ny.gov/food-business-licensing.

For products previously covered under this exemption, no additional action is required:

Maple

Maple syrup

Maple cream

Maple sugar

Maple candy

Barrel-aged maple syrup products

Honey

Honey – pasteurized, unpasteurized, and raw

Creamed honey

Honey candy

If the product is already made or can be made under New York State’s Home Processor exemption, no additional action other than registering as a Home Processor is required. Visit agriculture.ny.gov/food-safety/home-processing to learn more.

For all other maple syrup and honey producers who want to add products with additional ingredients, please contact your local Department of Agriculture and Markets office for a product and/or on-site review to ensure you qualify for this exemption. A list of offices is included on the next page.



Agriculture and Markets

For assistance, contact your local New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets office:

ALBANY: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (518) 457-4492
10B Airline Drive
Albany, New York 12235

BROOKLYN: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (718) 722-2876
55 Hanson Place – 3rd Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11217-1583

BUFFALO: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (716) 847-3185
535 Washington Street, Suite 303
Buffalo, New York 14203

HAUPPAUGE: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (631) 952-3079
Suffolk State Office Building, Room 13A, 4th Floor
250 Veteran's Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, New York 11788

NEW WINDSOR: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (845) 220-2047
103 Executive Drive, 3rd Floor, Suite 300
New Windsor, New York 12553

ROCHESTER: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (585) 427-2273
1530 Jefferson Road
Rochester, New York 14467

SYRACUSE: Division of Food Safety and Inspection, (315) 487-0852
New York State Fairgrounds
581 State Fair Boulevard
Syracuse, New York 13209