

County of San Mateo
Board of Supervisors

Ordinance Requiring Registration, Permit, and
Fee for Commercial Use of Mobile,
Autonomous AI-Controlled Robots

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COUNTY OF **SAN MATEO**



Overview of Ordinance

- Requires Covered Establishments to acquire a permit before operating a Covered Robot (with annual renewals)
- Requires Establishment to act in response to public safety incidents involving Robots
- Creates fees targeting enforcement, fire safety, and workforce mitigation costs
- Establishes penalties for non-compliance

Definitions

(Sec. 5.140.020)

- “Covered Robot” or “Commercial Autonomous AI-Controlled Robot”
 - Fully or partially autonomous machine using sensors/cameras and AI to operate at least partially without human control
 - Physically operates in a Covered Establishment in unincorporated County
 - Operates untethered in spaces accessible to public or workers without physical barriers
 - Powered by a rechargeable lithium-ion battery

Definitions

(Sec. 5.140.020)

- “Covered Establishment”
 - Entity with a physical location in unincorporated County selling goods or services and serving the public
 - E.g., restaurants, cafes, retail stores, hospitality venues

Permit Requirements

(Sec. 5.140.030)

- Obtain a permit before operating a Covered Robot
- Immediately cease operation if Robot causes harm or is involved in an incident that could be considered a threat to public safety
- Report public safety incidents and incidents involving safety personnel to Code Compliance within five days

Permit Application Requirements

(Sec. 5.140.040 & .050)

- Submit an application that covers all Robots at all physical locations where they might operate
- Include information relating to public safety, sanitation, battery safety, manufacturer safety data, economic impact, workforce mitigation, human supervision, insurance, privacy, and public complaints.
- Receive approval from Code Compliance, local fire agency, and County Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement

Fees

(Sec. 5.140.060 & .070)

- Mobile Battery Hazardous Materials and Fire Services Fee
 - For SMC Fire training, inspections, equipment
- Enforcement and Administrative Fees
 - For Code Compliance/OLSE for permitting, inspections, and enforcement
- County Automation Impact Fee
 - For Workforce Retraining Fund to subsidize local job transition services

Enforcement

(Sec. 5.140.090–110)

- Right to inspect
- Penalties
 - Administrative fines
 - Permit revocation and suspension (incl. of County-issued licenses)
 - Civil enforcement
 - Public nuisance abatement
 - Criminal enforcement as misdemeanor

COUNTY_{OF} SAN MATEO

