



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF REGULATORY SERVICES

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April 2, 2020

To: Connecticut Dairy Industry
Connecticut Interstate and Intrastate Milk Pasteurization Plants, Cheese Manufacturers,
Producers of Milk for Pasteurization

From: Wayne Kasacek, Asst. Director, Bureau of Regulatory Services

Re: FDA variance from routine Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) inspection frequency

Effective Immediately

To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus to our regulated community and to our staff, during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department has requested and received a waiver from certain inspections by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA granted the Department a 60-day waiver from routine inspections, pasteurizer testing and other requirements of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). We are applying this temporary waiver to dairy farms producing milk for pasteurization, milk processing facilities, and cheese manufacturers who are not covered by the PMO, but are regulated by the Department.

This temporary suspension in the Department's routine milk safety related field work applies to:

- Grade-A Farms and intrastate dairy farms producing milk for pasteurization
- Grade-A milk plants and intrastate pasteurizing plants including cheese manufactures
- Bulk milk pick-up tanker inspection
- Milk weigher/sampler evaluations
- Milk laboratory evaluations
- Milk for pasteurization and pasteurized milk product sampling
- Testing and sealing pasteurizer equipment

Depending on the duration and of the COVID-19 situation, the Department may request a further extension of the waiver from the FDA. When this situation does moderate, we would plan to resume all dairy related inspection activities.

- During this temporary suspension, the Department will still continue to respond to and investigate any allegation of illness or injury related to milk and milk products produced in our state. The Department will continue its current activities as they relate to positive inhibitor reports. The Department will continue its current policy and procedures as they relate to reporting and response to pasteurizer broken regulatory seal reports. All anomalies related to the pasteurization process must be immediately reported to the Department, directly to me, wayne.kasacek@ct.gov or (860) 384-2598, and to your state inspector.

While we are not actively conducting inspections, we want to emphasize the responsibility of the state's dairy industry to continue producing safe, wholesome milk and milk products during these unusual circumstances. It is important that the Connecticut dairy industry maintains its excellent record of producing high quality and safe products for consumers.

All farms should set up a schedule to ensure that there are fewer than five (5) people at the barn at any time. It is imperative that the principles of social distancing, proper disinfecting, and sanitary practices are maintained.

The Department has posted guidance for Agriculture at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/COVID-19-Resources-for-Farmers>

Please read the guidance, if you have specific Covid 19 concerns do not hesitate to contact the department at AGR.Covid19@ct.gov

The Department appreciates your continued cooperation in these trying times.