



Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets  
116 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901  
(Phone) 802.828.5667

Office of the Secretary

March 23, 2020

Dear Vermont Milk Hauler,

Inspections of your milk tank trucks and drivers must continue despite the COVID-19 situation as the sanitation of your tankers is critical to the health and general welfare of our nation's consumers of dairy products. The daily work that your company performs to weigh and sample and transport milk allows our dairy farms' milk to reach processors that turn this milk into high quality dairy products for consumers. Vermont's economy is strengthened and empowered by your company's effort to get milk to processors. Maintaining our dairy industry during this time is of the utmost importance.

Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets dairy inspectors will continue to conduct essential inspections that are required by Vermont law and the federal Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). If your company or employee refuses inspection, your company or employee will fall out of compliance with the PMO and the Agency will have to suspend your permit and/or the employee's license. Suspension of your permit or the employee's license will result in your company and/or employee not being eligible to weigh and sample and transport milk in Vermont.

The Agency is taking precautions to prevent COVID-19's spread. Inspectors take every day preventive measures such as proper hand washing and not working when sick. Inspectors wear disposable gloves that are disposed of after completing an inspection and are using hand sanitizer. Signatures are not collected from anyone at your company so that the 6 feet of distance recommendation can be maintained and so that only the inspector touches their tablet. Inspectors follow a state employee ban on out-of-state work travel. If an inspector travels out of state on their personal time, a review must take place prior to the inspector being able to return to work. For traceability, inspectors report daily to their supervisor every place that they get out of their state-owned vehicle.

Inspectors are required to follow Vermont Agency of Administration COVID-19 Guidance for State Employees, Vermont Department of Health COVID-19 Guidance for Food and Lodging Businesses, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Guidance. These documents can be found here:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/about-us/disaster-planning/covid-19-guidance-vermont-businesses>

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/EH-COVID-19-Food-Lodging-Business-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

If you do not have internet access, you can call Dairy Section Chief E.B. Flory at 802-828-3836 for a copy or ask your inspector at their next visit.

The Agency appreciates your cooperation in this trying time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anson Tebbetts".

Anson Tebbetts  
Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets

