

Animal Health Requirements for the Sale of Unpasteurized (Raw) Milk Directly to Consumers

Below is the statutory language related to animal health testing as passed by the 2015 legislature and signed by the Governor:

6 V.S.A. § 2777. STANDARDS FOR THE SALE OF UNPASTEURIZED (RAW) MILK (animal health requirements portion only)

(c) Unpasteurized milk operations shall conform to reasonable sanitary standards, including:

(1)(A) Unpasteurized milk shall be derived from healthy animals which are subject to appropriate veterinary care, including rabies vaccination, according to accepted vaccination standards as established by the Agency.

(B) A producer shall ensure that all ruminant animals are tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis, according to accepted testing standards established by the Agency, prior to the sale of unpasteurized milk.

(C) A producer shall ensure that dairy animals entering the producer's milking herd, including those born on the farm, are tested for brucellosis and tuberculosis, according to accepted testing standards established by the Agency, prior to the animal's milk being sold to consumers, unless:

(i) The dairy animal has a negative U.S. Department of Agriculture approved test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to importation into the State, in which case a brucellosis test shall not be required;

(ii) The dairy animal has a negative U.S. Department of Agriculture approved tuberculosis test within 60 days prior to importation into the State, in which case a tuberculosis test shall not be required;

(iii) The dairy animal leaves and subsequently reenters the producer's herd from a state or Canadian province that is classified as "certified free" of brucellosis and "accredited free" of tuberculosis or an equivalent classification, in which case a brucellosis or tuberculosis test shall not be required.

(D) A producer shall post test results and verification of vaccinations on the farm in a prominent place and make results available to customers and the Agency.