



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

PIM# 10-02

TO: District Directors
Environmental Health Managers
Division of Food and Environmental Services Staff

FROM: Gary J. Hagy, Director
Division of Food and Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Grade "A" Milk Plant Inspection Frequency

The attached PIM addresses the frequency of milk plant inspections to be conducted at Grade "A" milk plants permitted by the Virginia Department of Health. This PIM is based on information provided by the Code of Virginia §3.2-5208, Regulations Governing Grade "A" Milk, 2VAC5-490, the Food and Drug Administration's Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, and the Food & Drug Administration's Methods of Making Sanitation Ratings of Milk Shippers.

This PIM establishes a quarterly inspection frequency for all permitted Grade "A" milk plants in Virginia. Implementation of this PIM should take effect January 1, 2011. Permitted milk plants should be advised of this change through e-mail, direct mailing, or during regulatory inspections.

Please insert this document in your PIM manual and distribute copies to all persons in your district working in your milk plant inspection program. If you have any questions, please contact your food and dairy consultants.

ATTACHMENT

Program: Dairy Program
Subject: Milk Plant Inspection Program
Issue: Frequency of Milk Plant Inspections
Authority: *Code of Virginia*

1. **§ 3.2-5208** *Powers and Duties of the State Health Commissioner, obstruction unlawful;*

Regulations Governing Grade “A” Milk

1. **2VAC5-490-34** *Inspection of dairy farms, milk plants, condensing plants and drying plants; HACCP audits of dairy plants;*

Food & Drug Administration Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (v.2009)

1. **Section 5** Inspection of Dairy Farms and Milk Plants;

Food & Drug Administration Methods of Making Sanitation Ratings of Milk Shippers (v.2009)

1. **Section D(1)(e)** Computation of Enforcement Ratings.

Public Health Rationale:

Inspections at permitted Grade “A” milk plants are conducted in order to evaluate or test against established standards. These standards are identified in the Regulations Governing Grade “A” Milk (2VAC5-490) and the Food & Drug Administration’s Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). The purpose of regulatory inspections is to identify a change in circumstances or arrangements at a regulated facility. This policy establishes a prescribed inspection frequency that the regulatory authority will use to conduct inspections at permitted Grade “A” milk plants in Virginia.

Background: The current Regulations Governing Grade “A” Milk, 2VAC5-490, was updated in May, 2007 and revised in March, 2009 allowing the State Regulatory Authority to determine the inspection frequency for milk plants. In Virginia, the State Regulatory Authority responsible for continuous supervision of the milk supply at Grade “A” milk plants is the Virginia State Health Department. Prior to these updates, the Regulations Governing Grade “A” Milk specified regulatory inspections be conducted on a monthly basis.

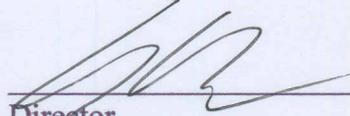
Interpretation: Unannounced regulatory inspections are to be conducted at least once every three months at milk plants in Virginia. For purposes of this interpretation, to determine if inspections have been made at the required frequency, the interval shall include the designated period, plus the remaining days of the month in which

the inspection is due. For example, if an inspection is conducted on January 15th during a calendar year, the next inspection must occur within three months to include the remaining days of the month, so it would need to be made by April 30th.

Responsibility: The local Environmental Health Specialist Senior or Environmental Health Technical Specialist responsible for regulatory oversight at milk plants is responsible for application of this interpretation in permitted Grade "A" milk plants.

Effective Date: This interpretation shall become effective January 1, 2011

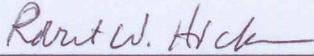
Approved by:



Director

Division of Food and Environmental Health Services

Endorsed by:



Director

Office of Environmental Health Services