

# Milk: Wholesome and Safe

## FACT SHEET

Few products are as thoroughly inspected, tested, documented and verified as milk and dairy products. Milk is regulated from the farm to the consumer.

- Since 2003, facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for consumption in the United States have been required to register with the Food and Drug Administration. That includes dairy processing plants.
- For about five years, it has been a federal requirement that all openings and ports on milk tankers have to be sealed. That can mean as many as four or five tamper-evident seals per tanker.
  - Seal numbers are recorded on the manifest accompanying the load of milk.
  - The receiving plant checks the numbers before accepting the milk.
- Milk transporters must be licensed by a state regulatory agency. In our state, it is the Kansas Department of Agriculture.
- The milk transporter is responsible for the cleanliness and safety of transport equipment, for collecting milk and milk samples at the farm, and for delivering the load and samples to the receiving plant.
- Milk transport trucks typically do not sit idle. There is a 72-hour limit from the time they are washed and sanitized until they are put into service.
  - The transporter is sealed after washing and the seal numbers are recorded on the wash ticket.
  - The wash ticket is carried on the truck until it goes to the next receiving plant for milk delivery.
  - The hauler records the same seal numbers on his manifest when he collects milk at a farm.
  - The milk manifest and the wash ticket are checked by the next receiving plant. If anything out of the ordinary is found, the receiving plant is required to notify regulatory authorities in the state where the milk originated and in the state where the receiving plant is located.
- Milk at processing plants is stored in secured tanks that must be emptied, cleaned and sanitized every 72 hours.
- Each producer, or group of producers, is assigned a bulk transfer unit number unique to them. When a load of milk arrives at a processing plant, the bulk transfer unit number on the manifest is cross-checked with FDA records to verify it came from a listed source. This guarantees absolute traceability of all loads of milk in the United States.

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