



Minnesota Department of Agriculture Inspections

A Report to the Minnesota Legislature

Whitney Place

625 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155
www.mda.state.mn.us

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Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 3.197, the cost of preparing this report was approximately \$250.

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Introduction

This report is submitted pursuant to 2017 Minnesota Laws Chap. 88 Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5 (o).

By January 15, 2018, the commissioner shall submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agricultural policy and finance with a list of inspections the department conducts at more frequent intervals than federal law requires, an explanation of why the additional inspections are necessary, and provide recommendations for eliminating any unnecessary inspections.

Human and Animal Manufactured Food Inspections

The state inspection frequencies for human manufactured food inspections is:

High-Risk Facilities	Once every 12 months
Medium-Risk Facilities	Once every 18 months
Low-Risk Facilities	Once every 24 months

The state inspection frequencies for animal food inspections is:

High-Risk Facilities	Once every 12 months
Medium-Risk Facilities	Once every 24 months
Low-Risk Facilities	Once every 60 months

The federal inspection frequency for human and animal manufactured food inspection is:

High-Risk Facilities	Once every 36 months
Non High-Risk Facilities	Once every 60 months

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) establishes a minimum inspection frequency of once every 36 months for High-Risk facilities and once every 60 months for non-high risk facilities. FDA inspectors generally conduct more lengthy inspections at these facilities (inspections may last many days or weeks) and conduct far fewer inspections than their state counterparts (generally fewer than 30-40 inspections per year). Minnesota state food inspectors inspect facilities more frequently but the inspections are much shorter. State inspections typically focus on observing the facility while in operation and making observations related to sanitation and processing controls at the time of

inspection. Shorter but more frequent state inspections have a smaller operational impact to the facility being inspected when compared to a federal inspection. A federal inspection includes a more extensive record-review process with a primary focus on establishing jurisdiction through documentation of interstate commerce. These differing approaches are complementary and allows the state to actively assess processing conditions in a facility whereas federal inspections seek to evaluate systematic program controls in a facility on a less frequent basis. The state and FDA work closely together to conduct inspections during investigations and compliance actions.

Meat- Custom Exempt Inspections

The state inspection frequency for custom exempt meat inspections is once every 3-12 months depending on past performance, risk factors, and history. It can range from 1-4 times per year for any given facility.

The federal inspection frequency for custom exempt meat inspections is at least once every 12 months.

Custom exempt plants handle high risk products and are frequently implicated in small scale foodborne illnesses and outbreaks, complaints about sanitary conditions and economic misbranding. Even with more frequent inspections many plants continue to have significant food safety compliance issues identified regularly. Plants with a history of strong compliance are inspected at the once every 12 month frequency.

Dairy Tanker Inspections

The state inspection frequency for dairy tanker inspections is once every 12 months.

The federal inspection frequency for dairy tanker inspections is once every 24 months.

Tankers are a significant factor for contamination of milk and milk products as evidenced by outbreaks like the large scale ice cream salmonella outbreak in the 1990's. More frequent inspections help address these issues in a more timely manner. It is also difficult to find tankers for inspections; having the 12 month frequency helps Minnesota stay in compliance with the Interstate Milk Shipment standard against which the State is audited due to the fact that many tanker inspections are completed in the 12-24 month window, rather than within 12 months.

Recommendations

At this time, the Department of Agriculture does not recommend changing any existing inspection frequencies in order to maintain our mission of enhancing Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply.