

DAIRYSAFE has an obligation to actively promote food safety learnings that are important to your business.

Key points –

- Minimum farm food safety and audit requirements
 - Management of major non-conformances
 - Confidentiality of audit findings
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This Bulletin provides information for dairy processor field officers on minimum farm food safety and audit requirements, management of major non-conformances, and confidentiality of audit findings.



Minimum farm food safety and audit arrangements

Farm food safety arrangements

Dairysafe is required to ensure all accredited dairy farms have a food safety arrangement in place, and also to verify (by audit) there is compliance by the dairy farm with the requirements of an approved food safety program.

A dairy farm's food safety arrangement includes the following:

- the activities under the accreditation comply with the requirements of Standard 4.2.4 of the Food Standards Code applicable to dairy farms
- implement an approved food safety program (approved by Dairysafe)
 - provide and monitor controls for identified hazards
 - include pre-requisite programs – hygiene & sanitation,
 - support programs – eg pest control & calibration, training, maintenance
 - ensure milk cooling & storage complies with accepted standards
 - maintain a system that manages herd health
 - includes traceability for inputs, animals & milk produced
- milk is transported by an accredited business
- milk is only supplied to an accredited business

Dairy farm audits

QCONZ is a Dairysafe approved provider of dairy farm food safety audits. In 2020 QCONZ will complete around two thirds of dairy farm audits on behalf of Dairysafe whilst Dairysafe staff will complete the other third. Dairysafe would like to offer the opportunity to field officers to accompany Dairysafe staff during one or more audits during 2020 to facilitate a good appreciation of the regulatory audit process.

Audits are arranged directly with the accredited business, normally through the designated contact person identified on the farm's annual return. Cancelling an arranged audit costs money, and Dairysafe will recover any out of pocket expenses associated with audits that are cancelled in the week leading up to the pre-agreed appointment.

Management of major non-conformances

Major non-conformances identified during an audit must be corrected within a 30 day timeframe (some, eg hygiene related, may require quicker attention). A major non-conformance occurs where an issue is likely to compromise food safety and suitability if no remedial action is taken to correct the non-conformance.

Dairysafe will verify and close out all major non-conformances. If the major non-conformance isn't corrected to a satisfactory level Dairysafe will apply other sanctions to achieve compliance which can include additional audits at the cost of the business, expiation, prosecution, suspension or cancellation of accreditation.

Correction of minor non-conformances at dairy farms will be verified at the next scheduled audit.

The non-conformances that dominated during 2019 dairy farm audits included:

milk cooling rate; thermometer calibration; feed vendor declarations; dairy hygiene; milking machine testing; record of chemical spray withholding period; and wash-up procedure for milking machine/storage.

Confidentiality of audit findings

Dairysafe is bound by strict confidentiality, which means we generally can't supply audit reports or details of audit findings. Audit reports remain the property of the accredited business.

If a field officer or dairy processor would like to know the food safety audit findings associated with any of their suppliers, they can either:

1. obtain those details (the audit report) directly from the accredited dairy farm; or
2. obtain permission in writing from the accredited dairy farm/s for Dairysafe to release that information

A summary of all non-conformances identified at dairy farm audits in 2019 is attached to this Bulletin.

Please notify Dairysafe of any changes to your suppliers, and also if you would like to discuss any of these issues further:

admin@dairy-safe.com.au



Dairysafe's regulatory management system is certified to the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Standard

SUMMARY OF THE NUMBER & TYPE OF NON-CONFORMANCES IDENTIFIED DURING 2019 DAIRYFARM AUDITS

