



**Australian Dairy Products Federation**  
164 Waverly Road  
MALVERN EAST VIC 3145



**Level 3, HWT Tower**  
40 City Road  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Friday 24 July 2020

### **Australian Dairy Industry Food safety and quality assurance statement on COVID-19**

The Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF) and Dairy Australia have prepared the following food safety and quality assurance statement on behalf of its members, to advise on the safe and effective production of Australian dairy products. This generic statement is constrained to the site of dairy manufacturing – freight and handling practices of dairy products once they leave the manufactures own, or externally approved, distribution site need to be considered over and above and beyond our area of control.

#### **Food Safety Assurance, and COVID 19.**

All Australian dairy farms, milk transport operators, manufacturing establishments and dairy food storage facilities must comply with the mandatory Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) Food Standards Code (FSC). The FSC requires all such entities to develop a Food Safety Plan which is audited by State regulatory authorities to maintain their licence to operate, and by DAWE as part of their assessment when granting export approvals.

The Food Safety Plan must provide detailed evidence of procedures for the control of all microbiological risks to dairy products and includes evidence for ensuring staff are appropriately trained in enacting these procedures. An important element of this food safety control is that all milk is pasteurised in the process of dairy product manufacturing.

In responding to the increased concerns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, individual companies have consulted the advice of the World Health Organisation on COVID-19 and food safety, as well as the guidance of Work Safe Australia, the Department of Health and Dairy Australia (see below) in developing their own COVID-19 protocols. These provide additional controls in addition to those in their approved Food Safety Plan, which aim to manage the risks associated with COVID-19 and containing the spread of the virus.

Companies have introduced a number of actions, appropriate to their own environment, as no two factories are the same. Thereby, specific quality assurance statements on COVID-19 and food safety will need to come from individual companies.

We can confidently say that dairy companies have deployed strict COVID-19 food safety and quality risk assessment protocols to ensure the health and safety of employees; maintaining operations so that safe, essential food production can continue; and, being socially responsible in line with company values.

---

The specific additional actions now being employed at Australian dairy establishments include:

- Ongoing education and training on COVID-19, e.g. staff; external business communication on food safety and quality assurance protocols.
- Increased cleaning and disinfection, e.g. frequency, objects and surfaces.
- Requirements for personal protective equipment, e.g. disposable gloves, face masks.
- More stringent hygiene in the workplace, e.g. hand washing, sanitisation/disinfectants, tissues, hand towels, soap.
- Temperature checking of all personnel and policies and actions for detection outside of the normal range
- New social/ physical distancing measures, e.g. essential staff and contractors on site; non-essential staff working from home; meetings; visitors; shared facilities; travel
- New policies and procedures for a suspected or diagnosed case of COVID-19, e.g. education and training about early signs and symptoms; recording contact details of staff and visitors; screening checklists; isolation, tracebacks and stand down provisions.

These protocols are carefully monitored and updated to reflect the latest evidence and advice.

A range of dairy processor-specific guidance materials and resources are also available on the [Dairy Australia website](#) to support and complement companies specific protocols on COVID-19 and food safety:

- [Preventing the spread of COVID-19 during service provider visits](#)
- [Preventing the spread of COVID-19 at your factory](#)
- [What to do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- [Deep cleaning in response to COVID-19 exposure](#)
- [Processor employer responsibilities](#)
- [Disinfection and hygiene for processors](#)
- [Milk collection guidelines](#)
- [Restrictions and border closures information note and Certificate Template](#)
- [World Health Organisation - 'COVID-19 and food safety: guidance for food businesses'](#)
- [COVID-19 Essential services for farms and processors \(Version 3, 14 April 2020\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Essential worker certification \(Last reviewed 8 July 2020\)](#)
- [COVID-19 transmission and dairy foods - evidence of safety on farm and in factory \(PDF\)](#)

We look forward to the ongoing safe supply of dairy products.

Yours sincerely,

Janine Waller  
Executive Director  
Australian Dairy Products Federation  
E: [info@adpf.org.au](mailto:info@adpf.org.au)  
M: 0409 189 574

Stewart Davey  
Manager, International Market Access  
Dairy Australia  
E: [stewart.davey@dairyaustralia.com.au](mailto:stewart.davey@dairyaustralia.com.au)  
M: 0400 513 786