

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON INTERSTATE MILK SHIPMENTS**  
“To Assure the Safest Possible Milk Supply for all the People”

November 8, 2013

To: All Interested Parties

From: National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS)

Subject: Request for Applications for Third Party Certifiers to Participate in the NCIMS Voluntary International Certification Program

The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) is soliciting applications from all parties who are interested in participating as Third Party Certifiers (TPCs) in the NCIMS Voluntary International Certification Program (ICP), utilizing non-governmental entities, to verify compliance with regulations for Grade “A” milk and milk products in areas outside of the boundaries of the United States. Successful participation in the ICP and a listing on the Interstate Milk Shippers (IMS) List will enable the importation of Grade “A” milk and/or milk products into the United States from milk processing plants located outside of the U.S. boundaries.

The documents released jointly today by the NCIMS and FDA to initiate the ICP includes the following:

- Third Party Certifier (TPC) Application for the NCIMS Voluntary International Certification Program (ICP);
- A fillable template of a Letter of Intent to Participate in the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments Voluntary International Certification Pilot Program; and
- A fillable template of a National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments Voluntary International Certification Pilot Program Memorandum of Agreement Between a Third Party Certifier and a Milk Company.

All interested parties are referred to IMS-a-49 at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/Milk/ucm2007974.htm>

or the Section titled “Procedures Governing the NCIMS Voluntary International Certification Program” within the latest revision of the *Procedures Governing the State-Public Health Service/Food and Drug Administration Program of the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments* for a detailed description of the design and operation of the ICP.

*The National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) is a voluntary organization directed and controlled by the member States and open to all persons interested in its objective of promoting the availability of a high quality milk supply. It is governed by an Executive Board whose members include representatives from state departments of health and agriculture, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and industry. Visit us at [www.ncims.org](http://www.ncims.org).*

Perspective TCPs shall complete and submit applications electronically (e-mail, CD ROM, flash drive) to either one of the NCIMS International Certification Program (ICP) Committee Co-Chairs cited on page 5 of this M-I. All e-mail electronic submissions shall state in the subject line: "NCIMS ICP TPC Application". Every electronic submission shall be followed up with a telephone call to either one of the ICP Co-Chairs.

**NOTE:** All submitted applications and associated documentation shall be completed in English.

Ms. Claudia Coles, Co-Chair  
WA Dept. Of Agriculture  
111 Washington Street  
P.O. Box 42560  
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Phone: (360) 902-1905  
Fax: (360) 902-2087  
Email: [ccoles@agr.wa.gov](mailto:ccoles@agr.wa.gov)

Or

Mr. Thomas Ford, Co-Chair  
Dairy Division  
IN State Board of Animal Health  
Discovery Hall, Suite 100  
1202 E. 38th Street  
Indiana State Fairgrounds  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Phone: (317) 544-2386  
FAX: (317) 974-2011  
Email: [tford@boah.in.gov](mailto:tford@boah.in.gov)