

***NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON INTERSTATE MILK SHIPMENTS***

"To Assure the Safest Possible Milk Supply for all the People"

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TO: NCIMS Conference Attendees

FROM: Dr. Stephen Beam, Conference Chair



SUBJECT: 2017 National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments

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Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend the **36th National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments scheduled for May 12 - 17, 2017** at the **Amway Grand Plaza, Curio Collection by Hilton, Grand Rapids, Michigan**. We are looking forward to a Conference agenda that will provide opportunities to deliberate many important issues facing the Grade "A" Milk Program. We hope you plan to attend and assist in the resolution of proposals submitted for consideration.

The Program Committee is planning an educational symposium that will provide information on topics such as: Appendix N Modification Committee and Pilot Update; Overview of FDA's Foreign Country Equivalence Activities; Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and Preventative Controls for Human Food Rule Implementation; and USDA Grading and Standardization Overview of its Role in Grade "A" Milk.

Computers with overhead projection will be used in the General Sessions, and the Council and Delegate voting sessions, to assist conferees in the deliberation of individual proposals. Therefore, all proposals must be submitted electronically using **the electronic form posted on the NCIMS web page ([www.ncims.org](http://www.ncims.org))**. Information will be provided on the website and later in this mailing on how to download and complete the proposal submission form. Additional instructions will be included on the proposal form in the proposed solution section directing how to identify added and deleted text when editing the referenced documents.

Please note that the proposals must be submitted, preferably, by e-mailing the electronic submission form, or on a CD using the electronic submission form. No handwritten, typed, or faxed proposals will be accepted. **The deadline for the receipt of all proposals, including proposed changes to the Constitution or Bylaws, using the electronic submission form (mailed CD or by e-mail) is February 14, 2017.** Proposals must be received in the office of the Program Committee Chair by this date, not postmarked by this date. E-mailed proposals must be received by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on February 14, 2017. Proposals may be e-mailed or sent on CD, (not faxed), to:

Cary Frye, NCIMS Program Committee Chair  
International Dairy Foods Association  
1250 "H" Street NW, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20005  
E-mail address: [cfrye@idfa.org](mailto:cfrye@idfa.org)

*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).*

You will receive an email confirmation for receipt of your proposal sent on CD or e-mail. If you do not receive an email confirmation within 24 hours of submitting your proposal electronically, please contact Cary Frye to ensure it was received. Her phone number is 202-220-3543.

Proposals may be submitted to revise the 2015 PMO, the 2015 MMSR, the 2015 Procedures, the 2015 Constitution and Bylaws, the FDA/NCIMS 2400 Forms and the 2015 EML. As always, a proposal may address any section of any document being considered.

Enclosed you will find registration information for the 2017 Conference. Please complete the advance registration form and mail it, with payment, to Marlena G. Bordson, at the address on the form so that it is received no later than **April 12, 2017 to take advantage of the early registration fee.** Attendees sending in registration forms and/or registration fees after April 12, 2017 will be charged the full registration fee. Those registrants who wish to use PayPal to submit fees must follow the instructions on [www.ncims.org](http://www.ncims.org) and submit a non-refundable electronic transaction convenience fee of \$15 per registrant.

**Requests for refunds must be made in writing to the NCIMS Executive Secretary. Registration fees are not refundable after April 12, 2017 (30 days prior to the Conference). Substitutions may be made subject to NCIMS Procedures without penalty and may be made at the door.**

Please see the enclosed hotel room reservation information page for specific reservation instructions. Lodging arrangements must be made directly with the **Amway Grand Hotel, Curio Collection by Hilton, Grand Rapids, Michigan.** The conference rate for those government or academic employees with ID is \$120.00 and the rate for all other attendees is \$164.00. Room rates are exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, currently at 15% (6% State Sales Tax and 9% Occupancy Tax). **The cut-off date to receive the special hotel room rate is April 17, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed after that date.**

The negotiated hotel parking rates are \$10.00 daily for Self-Parking or \$29 daily for Valet for the length of the Conference. Complimentary guest room internet connection and service will be extended to all attendees. If you are driving to the hotel and need GPS Direction Input, the hotel's motor lobby is located on 225 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

The hotel does not provide shuttle service to and from the airport. There is no airport shuttle, but taxis are readily available and cost approximately \$30 each way.

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you at the 2017 Conference. Please feel free to contact me, Cary or Marlena with any questions about the Conference and the proposal submission process.