


***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: 2019 National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments

Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend the **37th National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments scheduled for April 26 – May 1, 2019** at the **Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis, Missouri**. 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: An update by the Appendix N Modification Study Committee on the Tetracycline Pilot Program; Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and Preventative Controls for Human Food Rule and Appendix T Implementation Update; and Information on FDA's Multi-Year Nutrition Innovation Strategy, including the Agency's progress on non-milk products marketed with names of dairy foods.

We are also pleased to announce that the NCIMS Orientation session for new attendees will be held on Friday, April 26, 2019 at 8:00 AM. This has been planned earlier in the schedule than in previous conferences to provide useful introductory information at a time more helpful to first-time registrants. The session will present an overview of the conference process on how proposals are considered and amended along with explaining the makeup and roles of the Executive Board, State Delegates, Council and Committee members, and FDA Advisors.

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)**. 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 USB flash drive 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 USB or by e-mail) is February 1, 2019.**

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.

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 1, 2019. Proposals may be e-mailed or sent on USB (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

You will receive an email confirmation of receipt of your proposal. 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 2017 PMO, the 2017 MMSR, the 2017 Procedures, the 2017 Constitution and Bylaws, the 2017 EML and the FDA/NCIMS 2400 Forms. As always, a proposal may address any section of any document being considered.

Enclosed you will find registration information for the 2019 Conference. Please complete the registration form and mail it, with payment, to Marlena G. Bordson, at the address on the form. It must be received no later than **March 27, 2019 to take advantage of the early registration fee.** Attendees sending in registration forms and/or registration fees after March 27, 2019 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. The registration fee includes 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 March 27, 2019 (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 **Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch**. The conference rate for those government or academic employees with ID is \$133.00 and the rate for all other attendees is \$185.00. Room rates are exclusive of applicable state and local taxes, currently at 17.989%. **The cut-off date to receive the special hotel room rate is April 2, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. Central Time. Rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed after that date.**

The negotiated hotel parking rates are \$24.00 daily for Self-Parking or \$34.00 daily for Valet for the length of the Conference. Complimentary guest room and meeting room internet connection and service will be extended to all attendees as well as complimentary fitness facility access. If you are driving to the hotel and need GPS Direction Input, the hotel's lobby is located on 315 Chestnut Street, St. Louis, MO 63102.

The hotel does not provide shuttle service to and from the airport. There is a GO Best Express Shuttle, <https://www.gobestexpress.com>, and taxis are readily available.

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you at the 2019 Conference. Please feel free to contact me, Cary or Marlena with any questions about the Conference and the proposal submission process.