

# Bulk Milk Hauler & Sampler Licensing in Minnesota

## What is a bulk milk hauler and sampler?

Bulk milk haulers and samplers collect official milk samples for regulatory purposes from farms and/or direct load tankers and may also transport raw milk from a farm to a milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station. Official milk samples are analyzed for somatic cell counts, bacteria, and composition, such as butterfat and solids. Producers are paid for their milk based on sample results. These samples may also be analyzed for antibiotics. Milk haulers must also accurately measure and collect milk in a safe and sanitary manner.

## What steps are necessary to become a new bulk milk hauler and sampler?

Becoming a new bulk hauler and sampler is a multi-step process. You must complete all the following steps to receive your license:

1. **Complete training:** Your employer will provide training on how to properly sample and collect milk during routine milk route collections. You cannot pick up milk on your own until you obtain a permit and license.
2. **Pass the bulk hauler exam:** Contact a local dairy inspector to request the Bulk Hauler Study Guide and contact information for the Bulk Hauler License Coordinator who can grant access to the online exam. Use the study guide to prepare. Once you are ready, complete the online exam. You must pass this exam prior to obtaining a permit.
3. **Get a permit:** The Bulk Hauler License Coordinator will email your results and contact information for your local dairy inspector. Contact your local dairy inspector to set up an appointment for an on-farm evaluation of your milk sampling and collection practices. The evaluation must be conducted during a routine farm milk pick-up with a bulk truck and all bulk hauler supplies provided. You must pass the evaluation to qualify for a permit and license. The passing report from this evaluation will serve as your permit. You must have a permit to be eligible for a license.
4. **Get a license:** Fill out the bulk hauler license application provided by your local dairy inspector and pay the license fee with a personal check or money order. Cash is not accepted. The receipt issued by the dairy inspector serves as a temporary license until you receive your official license in the mail. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, your temporary license will be considered invalid until payment is made. Your initial license is valid until the end of the current calendar year.

## How do I renew my bulk milk hauler and sampler license?

To be eligible to renew your license, bulk haulers and samplers need to have a valid permit. You are issued a permit when you pass a bulk hauler evaluation. You must complete an evaluation at least every 24 months. Your permit renewal/evaluation is not always due at the same time as your license renewal. It is your responsibility to ensure this is done. You must have a current sampling evaluation to collect official samples and to receive the application to renew your license. It is very important to make sure your evaluation is completed on time. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) will send a notice to let you know your evaluation is nearing its due date. When you receive the notice, it is your responsibility to contact a dairy inspector to schedule an evaluation.

**If you are not in compliance with the regulations during your evaluation, a re-evaluation may be required, or your permit may be suspended.**

Once you have passed your evaluation, you will be eligible for license renewal. Renewed licenses are good for two years. Renewal applications are sent in November of each year to individuals who have a current permit and whose license will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year. Without a current permit (evaluation), you will not receive a license renewal. Payment of the license fee must be postmarked by December 31<sup>st</sup> or a late fee will be assessed.

## What are the bulk milk hauler and sampler licensing fees and effective periods?

Table 1: Current licensing fees and periods.

	New Licenses	License Renewals
License fee	\$60	\$60
Late fee	NA	\$30
License effective period	Expires December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the year issued	Valid for 2 years. Always issued on January 1 <sup>st</sup> and expires on December 31 <sup>st</sup> of the second year (e.g., January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023)

## How do I notify the MDA when my phone number, email, or physical address change?

It is important for the MDA to have your correct contact information so that we can provide you with the information you need to keep your license current. Please send an email to [dairy.results@state.mn.us](mailto:dairy.results@state.mn.us) with changes in your contact information.

## Questions?

For additional information or a copy of the Bulk Hauler Study Guide, contact your local dairy inspector or the MDA Dairy & Meat Inspection Division at 651-201-6300.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.