

[Dairy registration and inspections](#)

Milk production holding registration

To be able to produce milk and milk products, you will need to register.

England and Wales

[Application for registration of milk production holding](#) (265 KB)

You can apply for registration in Northern Ireland with [Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland](#).

Dairy hygiene inspections

Our dairy hygiene inspections ensure a satisfactory standard of hygiene is maintained on all dairy farms. We do this by inspecting milking premises, equipment, milk-producing animals and enforcing satisfactory standards.

The inspections help to protect the nation's raw milk supply from the risk of contamination by bacteria and other substances, some of which are potentially harmful.

Inspectors enforce parts of:

- Regulation 852/2004
- Regulation, 853/2004
- Regulation 854/2004
- Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2013
- Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2013

These regulations apply to all premises used for producing raw milk for human consumption, and involve activities such as:

- registration of approved production premises - dairy farms -
- inspection of milking premises,
- inspection of equipment and milk-producing animals
- enforcing satisfactory standards

The inspectors also supervise a sampling programme of raw drinking milk, which is carried out on behalf of the FSA by Eclipse Scientific Group in England and Wales.

In Northern Ireland dairy hygiene inspection is carried out by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Quality Assurance Branch.

Frequency of inspections

Different delivery mechanisms across England, Wales and Northern Ireland can mean that similar farms in different parts of the country are subject to different inspection frequencies.

Additional checks are carried out on farms that are members of the Assured Dairy Farmer scheme - a Red Tractor assurance scheme. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, there are approximately 12,000 holdings that are audited every 18 months against the Assured Dairy Farm Scheme standards.

The inspection frequencies in England and Wales reflect, where appropriate, membership of the Assured Dairy Farm Scheme.

In Northern Ireland, the new inspection system will be phased in over two years.