

**Artisan/Farmstead Cheese Supplier
Compliance Checklist
Level 1**

This documentation is used by _____ to review a new or existing local supplier. Please provide a copy of ALL documentation including any plans to address any deficiencies.

Date: _____
 Supplier Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Owner/Manager Name: _____
 Hours of Operation: _____
 Buyer: _____
 Region/Store: _____
 Products Made and being considered for review: _____

Section 1 – FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT:					
		yes	no	n/a	value
1.01	Are all ingredients and sub-ingredients in the products to be sold at _____ compliant with the _____ Quality Standards?				0
1.02	Is the milk supply used to make _____ product rBST free? Please provide documentation and any additional steps taken to support an rBST free claim.				0
1.03	Does the milk used for cheese production meet all regulatory requirements for antibiotic testing? What test are being conducted to verify the milk does not contain antibiotic residue?				CRITICAL
1.04	Does the facility use its own dairy producing animals to provide milk used in products? Please tell us how many dairy animals are in the operation. If the milk used for making cheese is NOT produced on-site, please answer next question				0
1.05	Please provide source for the milk used to make cheese products. If milk is supplied from on-site animals, please describe the milking procedures used and how contamination is controlled or minimized. What type of systems are in place to verify the milk meets the Food Safety and regulatory standards?				4
1.06	How many stores will you be supplying product to? Provide a list of stores you are or will be providing.				0
1.07	Provide a list of products produced and production capabilities Provide a list and the possible amount of product that you may produce safely without exceeding your production capacity				0
1.08	Is an owner operated facility used to produce the product? If this is an owner operated facility, the owner/operator must complete this questionnaire and attach or provide all supporting documents				0
1.09	Does the owner use an off-site facility, shared kitchen or Co-Packer to produce, store or hold product? If yes, provide more information The supplier must provide information on any facility being used to process, package, or store the product for _____ The supplier and/or facility must assume responsibility for compliance with all requirements set forth including liability and insurance indemnification.				0
1.10	Does the facility have the required insurance for your products? We request all _____ supplier partners to carry insurance. The type of coverage and amount depends on a products risk level. Please check with your _____ contact to get specific insurance requirements. _____ and its subsidiaries must be named as an additional insured by endorsement to your insurance policy. We will request a copy of the endorsement with your certificate of insurance on an annual basis.				0
1.11	Does the facility participate in third party auditing? A supplier that participates in a third party audit system is a lower risk than one that doesn't. All suppliers participating in third party audits should make the reports available for review by authorized _____ Team Members.				0
1.12	Is the facility compliant with the Reportable Food Registry requirements? http://www.fda.gov/food/foodsafety/FoodSafetyPrograms/RFR/default.htm				0
1.13	What is the water source used in the facility? Provide documentation of testing.				4
1.14	Do you have means of disposing of waste? Waste disposal must meet all regulatory requirements and be conducted at a frequency to mitigate pest activity.				4
1.15	Do you have a record retention policy in place? A record retention policy must meet a minimum standard of 2 years and/or shelf life if longer than 2 years, with records available upon request.				4
1.16	Does the facility have finished product testing done? (Independent lab or state obtained samples) Finish product testing is highly recommended for all high-risk items. These should be done on a monthly basis look for pathogenic strains of microorganisms. Ideally the facility would test and hold each batch of product, but the shelf life of the product may not allow for this in some cases. Some state agencies may pick up samples for regular testing such as in fluid milk and dairy products.				0
				Subtotal	20

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Section 3 - Control of Food Hazards and Food Safety Plans (HACCP)				yes	no	n/a	value
3.01	FSMA requires a validated FSP plan be implemented for all Milk and Dairy related items including Cheeses.						
	Ensure that the facility has a strong FSP plan and verification documents for cooking temperatures, Pasteurization temperatures, cooling temperatures, holding temperatures and transportation. Ask for copies of calibration logs as well as all other CCPs. The plan must be reviewed annually. What was the last review date?						7
	Facility should have a FSP team in place with a FSP Coordinator identified. The Coordinator should have gone through training and have a certificate.						2
	The FSP should reference regulatory pasteurization requirements if applicable.						3
	Food Safety Plan should reference Prerequisite programs such as GMP's, Cleaning and Sanitizing schedules & procedures, and other quality procedures being used.						3
	The Critical Control Points (CCPs) should be validated, verified and documented.						3
3.02	Do the cheeses produced meet all of the 21 CFR 133 "Standards of Identity"?						
	If so, which standards do they fall under?						0
3.03	Is there an allergen control program (gluten, dairy, soy, egg, etc.)?						
	The facility must have an allergen control plan in place as part of their HACCP plan.						
	The facility should conduct initial allergen screening on all products and random allergen testing after that to ensure adherence to tolerance levels.						
	The facility should also validate its cleaning program via testing.						
	The employees must have been well trained on allergen control in their facility.						3
3.04	Does the facility use a reduced oxygen or vacuum type package for its product? Is the procedure approved by a recognized process authority?						
	Reduced Oxygen packaging has been implicated in many foodborne illness outbreaks including some caused by <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> .						
	Facility must have a HACCP plan to control the hazards associated with this type of packaging.						4
3.05	Are any of the Cheese products being provided sold or re-packed in _____ brand containers or out of an in-store bulk display?						
	Ensure that there is a good lot traceability program established from facility through retail sale.						4
3.06	Have the facilities products ever been implicated in a foodborne illness outbreak?						
	A history of foodborne illness outbreak could be caused by a poor food safety management structure. Ensure that all corrective actions have been made and no pending investigations are in operation.						
	Have facility share results of any product testing done after incident.						0
3.07	Have the facilities products ever been the subjects of a Class 1 Recall?						
	Facility must show three consecutive negative test results for pathogens of concern for each batch of products being sold to _____						
	3rd Party audit is required prior to selling products to _____.						
	A history of recall should be studied and corrective actions verified for compliance prior to allowing product into the _____ product mix.						0
3.08	Does the facility have a recall system/procedure in place including mock recalls? Please provide the date of last mock recall						
	Any supplier producing items for sale at _____ must be able to recall any item that may have been adulterated, mislabeled, misbranded or otherwise negatively affected.						
	Have the supplier or operator demonstrate or share their history of mock recall test.						
	Have the supplier or operator demonstrate compliance with traceability requirements. All product (100%) from a lot or production date must be accounted for in a two hour period to be considered a successful Mock Recall.						4
3.09	Does the facility have all required regulatory permits? (State/Local Health/Ag permit, Milk and Dairy, tax id, etc)						
	Regulatory permits may be administered by the State and/or Local Health departments (Manufactured Food, Retail Foods, Meat safety, Dept of Ag) or FDA and/or USDA (if the facility operates under Interstate Commerce).						
	All permits must be current and in good standing or the product will become misbranded and detainable. If a supplier goes out of business, the product also become misbranded and cannot be offered for sale						4
3.10	Are all official audits/inspections available for review?						
	It is important to be able to verify that the products being produced in the facility are safe and the facility or operation is in good standing with Regulatory agencies.						3
3.11	If providing Organic product, does the facility have the necessary certification?						
							0
3.12	Does the product label have a clear code "Best By" date and any other recall information applied? Provide an example						
	All items must have easily identifiable information on each individual retail package or bulk container to ensure that if a recall is initiated, the product can be identified and pulled.						
	The identification system used on the package must be permanent in nature and have the required information to trace back the item to a production lot or batch.						4
							Subtotal
							44
							Total
							100