288.501.amended Milk plant license; application; form; renewal; fees; deposit; new construction, remodeling, and equipment changes; late fee; total fees.

Sec. 31. (1) An applicant for an initial license as a milk plant shall apply to the department on a form supplied by the department and provide a statement containing the following:

(a) The milk plant’s correct legal name and any name by which the milk plant is doing business. If the milk plant is a person not an individual, the name of each officer and director, and partner, member, or owner owning in excess of 35% of equity or stock.

(b) The location of the milk plant to which the statement pertains and the name of the responsible person who may be contacted at that location.

(c) The anticipated value of greatest milk receipts the milk plant expects to receive during a consecutive 30-day period within the licensing period.

(d) A list of producers, including names, mailing addresses, and department producer permit number, with whom the milk plant intends to do business except that not later than 90 days after becoming licensed for the first time, the milk plant shall send an updated list to the department.

(e) The name of the financial institution through which milk checks are to be issued to producers.

(2) A milk plant shall annually renew a license issued under this act by applying to the department at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the existing license. The anniversary date of a license for a milk plant that is providing a financial statement as a security device is 130 days after the close of the licensee's fiscal year. The milk plant shall apply for renewal of a license on a form supplied by the department and provide a statement containing the following:

(a) The milk plant’s correct legal name and any name by which the milk plant is doing business. If the milk plant is a person not an individual, the name of each officer and director, and partner, member, or owner owning in excess of 35% of equity or stock.

(b) The location of the milk plant to which the statement pertains and the name of the responsible person who may be contacted at that location.

(c) The greater of either the value of greatest milk receipts that the milk plant received within a consecutive 30-day period during its last license year or the greatest milk receipts that the milk plant is anticipated to receive during a consecutive 30-day period within the licensing period.

(d) A complete list of producers, including names, mailing addresses, and department producers permit number, with whom the milk plant is doing business.

(e) The name of the financial institution through which milk checks are issued to producers.

(3) Each milk plant shall pay a $175.00 annual licensing or permitting fee, and additionally, an annual fee of $5.00 for each dairy farm whose milk is received at the milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station, plus an additional $10.00 per farm shipping to it if the milk plant, receiving station, or transfer station operator does not maintain an adequate number of industry personnel, as determined by the director, who are approved to conduct certified industry farm inspections. The department shall not levy this additional $10.00 per farm fee if a cooperative association is conducting the certified industry farm program for the milk plant operator. The department shall only charge the dairy farm license fee to the producer if the producer is not assigned to a milk plant that pays the annual fee required by this subsection for the producer. Any such unassigned producer shall be charged a handling fee of $5.00 plus an additional $10.00 if certified industry farm inspectors are not assigned to the farm.

(4) Any fees, assessments, civil or administrative fines, and money from any other source collected by the department under this act shall be deposited into the dairy and food safety fund created in section 4117 of the food law of 2000, MCL 289.4117.

(5) A milk plant operator shall submit detailed plans to the department for approval before commencing new construction, remodeling, and equipment changes. Plans for new construction or remodeling shall include a plan that provides for operational or physical isolation of the milk plant from sources of potential product contamination caused by animal production facilities located in close proximity to the milk plant. Retail or public viewing areas shall be separated from processing areas by a solid floor-to-ceiling partition, except that, as approved by the director, other equally effective means of protection may be used.

(6) The department may impose a late fee of $10.00 for a renewal application for each business day the application is late. The total late fee shall not exceed $100.00. The department shall not issue or renew a license until any fees and fines have been paid. A hearing is not required regarding the department’s refusal to
issue or renew a license under this subsection except as allowed under the administrative procedures act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328. The department may charge a convenience fee and collect from the applicants any additional costs associated with the method of fee payment for the license or permit fees described in this section and sections 32 and 33, not to exceed the costs to the department.