



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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**DATE:** June 27, 2006

**TO:** All Local Health Departments (LHD's)  
Attn: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian  
Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA)  
Attn: Food and Dairy Division Managers  
Attn: Food and Dairy Division Inspectors

**FROM:** Kevin Besey, Manager  
Food Service Sanitation Section  
Food and Dairy Division

**SUBJECT: ALERT- Increased Food Truck Transport Monitoring Needed**

Surveys of food transport trucks have been made by Michigan Department of Agriculture inspectors and Michigan State Police, Motor Carrier Officers on several occasions since April, 2006. These surveys have provided information regarding the number and type of unsafe food products being transported across our roadways.

These surveys have found a number of instances where refrigerated, perishable food was being transported at unsafe temperatures and from questionable sources. During future inspections, please provide increased attention during your risk-based inspections to determining:

- The source of all food received by establishments. This may include:
  - Identity of each delivery firm and what is delivered
  - Owner self-delivered food
- Supplier delivery dates and times
- Monitoring and oversight of deliveries by establishment to assure food delivered is from an approved source, is safe, wholesome and at proper temperatures. Working with establishments to promote active monitoring and rejection of unsafe deliveries will provide the best food safety defense.

Increased attention should especially focus on those establishment types that the truck surveys have shown to be at highest risk of receiving unsafe food. Increased monitoring during the hot summer months is especially important.

Inspection, seizure and disposal of unsafe food may be ordered under the Michigan Food Law, sections 2105-2111. Coordination between local health departments, MDA regional offices and MDA Lansing office staff should be maintained.

Truck survey data has shown that:

- Approximately 8% of trucks overall are presumably carrying food. This varied from 2-14% depending on the survey location.
- 57-78% of food trucks are refrigerated and may therefore be transporting perishable foods.
- 59% of trucks surveyed were destined for a single location. Destinations were cited as:
  - Warehouse- 68%
  - Food service establishments- 17%
  - Grocery stores- 10%
  - Other- 5%

**During an April 18-19 survey conducted at six weigh stations throughout the state, detailed surveys were made of 66 trucks that Motor Carrier Officers had probable cause to stop. Six trucks (9%) were found to be carrying food at unsafe temperatures. Four trucks were Asian food delivery trucks, one truck was a Hispanic food delivery truck and one truck contained packaged sandwiches for vending and retail sale. An additional Asian truck, destined for Chinese restaurants, with out of temperature food was found during a survey made on June 23, 2006. Unsafe food was seized and destroyed from all seven trucks. In addition, a number of Asian food delivery trucks transporting food at unsafe temperatures have been found during traffic stops made by Motor Carrier Officers over the past year or so.**

Problems found on delivery vehicles to date have included:

- Use of unrefrigerated trucks. Trucks were often unmarked and may be rentals.
- Refrigeration units broken or turned off.
- Foods being transported for extended periods at unsafe temperatures.
- Establishment owner using their own unrefrigerated vehicle to purchase ready-to-eat hot meals (i.e. prepared seafood dinners) in individual take-out containers and then transporting meals long distances.
- Meat products lacking proof of federal inspection.
- Meat products held in non-food grade containers.
- Low driver awareness of safe food temperatures and low levels of driver food safety training.
- Mixed loads with multiple destinations were generally noted as not having adequate segregation.