



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

DON KOIVISTO  
DIRECTOR

**DATE:** January 10, 2008

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Besey".

**SUBJECT: FDA Voluntary Retail Standards- Resources and Assistance**

MDA has completed a number of items to assist local health departments (LHDs) that have or are considering enrolling in the FDA Voluntary Retail Standards. They include:

- **A new web page to provide one-stop shopping for all standards related documents.** The web page is located on our "Resources for Regulators" page under "Additional Links". The direct link is: [http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1568\\_21390-180750--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1568_21390-180750--,00.html). The web page contains a blank enrollment form with instructions.
- **An assessment showing which standards each LHD meets.**
  - **All 45 LHDs now meet Standard 1, Laws and Regulations**, based upon MDA getting this standard audited as met in 2007.
  - **Nine agencies meet Standard 7, Industry and Community Relations**, based upon their last accreditation review and a ruling by the FDA that if a standard has been audited as met through an equivalent system, such as accreditation, that the standard can be listed as met without additional assessment or auditing.
- **An opportunity to discuss the standards with each agency will be offered at each accreditation exit interview, beginning in 2008.** I encourage agencies to take the opportunity to discuss the standards at that time.

As your agency now meets at least one national standard, I encourage you to enroll soon and get national recognition for your accomplishment.

Distribution List:  
MIFood Listserve  
MDA Food Section Staff  
John Powell, MDA