

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)**  
**Division of Measurement Standards (DMS)**  
**Farm Milk Tank Survey – December 2023**

DMS surveyed county officials to determine whether farm milk tanks are used for commercial purposes in their jurisdictions, respectively, and to determine compliance with established requirements in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 4, Sections 4000, 4002.7, 4070, and with the Device Enforcement Program Manual Examination Procedure Outline (EPO) 34. Farm Milk Tanks. This document contains county responses to this survey. It does not include any DMS conclusions or RSA Advisory Committee recommendations.

References:

[4 CCR 4000](#). California adopts and incorporates by reference requirements for devices used for commercial purposes published in the latest edition of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) [Handbook 44, Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices](#), except for those listed in Section 4001 and additional requirements that are adopted in applicable subsections of 4002.

[NIST Handbook 44, Section 4.42. Farm Milk Tanks. \(2024 edition\)](#). In addition to [Section 1.10. General Code](#), farm milk tanks used for commercial purposes shall comply with Section 4.42.

[4 CCR 4002.7](#). Farm Milk Tanks. (4.42.) additional requirement states:  
(a) Calibration at Installation. Any farm milk tank exceeding 1,000 gallons capacity installed or relocated after January 1, 1982 shall be calibrated at the farm and a volume chart prepared before the acceptance test is performed.

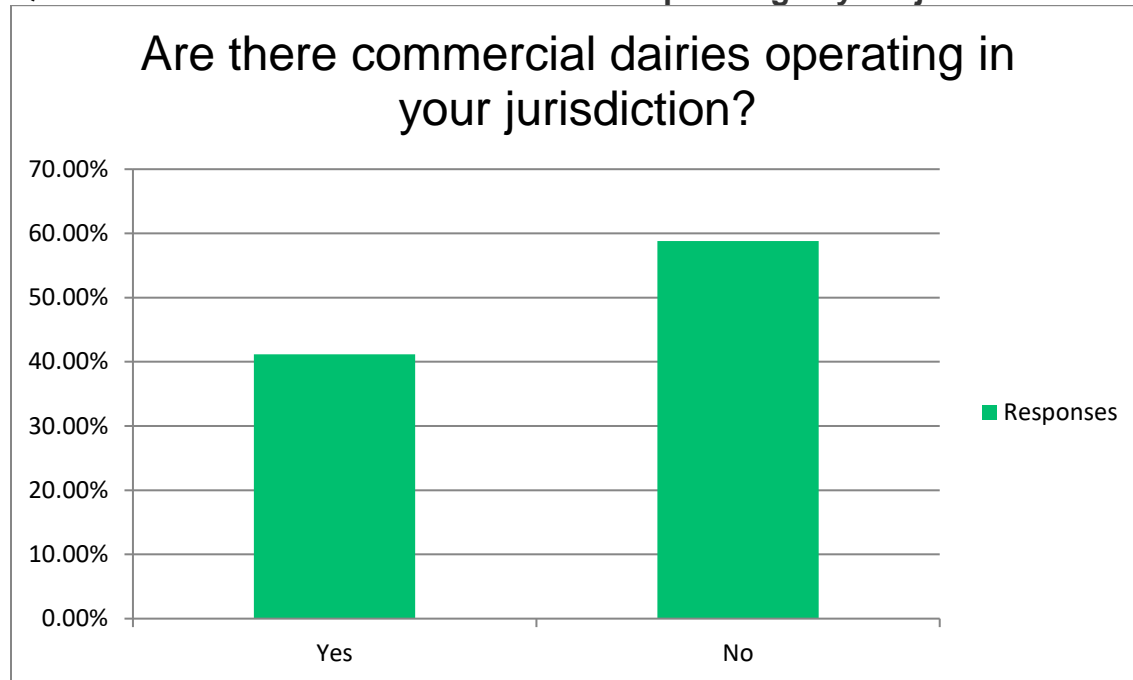
[4 CCR 4070](#). Table 1: Inspection Frequencies states that farm milk tanks used for commercial purposes shall receive an initial inspection, plus annual visual inspections.

[Device Enforcement Program Manual](#) Examination Procedure Outline (EPO) 34 Farm Milk Tanks. This EPO contains test procedures and an Inspection Checklist for farm milk tanks.

### Questions 1-4: Respondents' Information

34 of 55 (62%) county jurisdictions replied to this survey.

### Question 5: Are there commercial dairies operating in your jurisdiction?



34 respondents replied to this question:

14 (41%) answered Yes.

20 (59%) answered No.

### Questions 6-8: You stated that there are one or more commercial dairies in your jurisdiction. Do any of these dairies use a farm milk tank for commercial purposes?

Of the remaining 14 respondents having commercial dairies (see question 5), 13 (93%) responded to this question.

Of the 13 respondents:

1 (8%) has farm milk tank(s) used for commercial purposes in their jurisdiction;

7 (54%) do not have farm milk tank(s) used for commercial purposes in their jurisdiction and provided the following explanations:

Holding prior to processing their own product

To get an estimate the weight of the milk pumped into the delivery truck

Unknown

Used for storage prior to delivery to the processing facility

As a check

Milk tanks are used to gauge milk going into a shipping tanker that will be weighed at the point of processing.

No longer used commercially. now used as a check measure for loading trucks and an estimation

Our "commercial" dairy does not sell wholesale. They just do small volume direct marketing sales

As a backup to compare payments to

Not determined

For storage

5 (38%) answered "it depends" and provided the following explanations:

I am unaware of any farm milk tanks in our county

Most use as a check

Milk is collected and sold at plants over vehicle scale locally at Leprino Foods. If scale is down, drivers will use milk tank weighmaster tags as backups.

Not sure

We were not aware the one dairy farm is operating in SCC and do not have any records of ever inspecting them.

**Question 9. What commercial device(s) are used to determine the price of milk produced by a dairy? For this question, commercial devices may be at the dairy or another location, e.g., a processing facility. Please specify the commercial devices and their location:**

Respondents provided the following information:

N/A

Vehicle meters located at the creamery

Unknown

A vehicle scale at the processing facility. Some dairies have a vehicle scale on site and the device could be used to weigh milk prior to delivery for the dairies own records

Most at processing facility

Truck scale at the processor

Vehicle scales at the processing facility

Direct marketing at certified farmer's markets and direct sales from farm using standardized small volume containers like gallon, quart, etc.

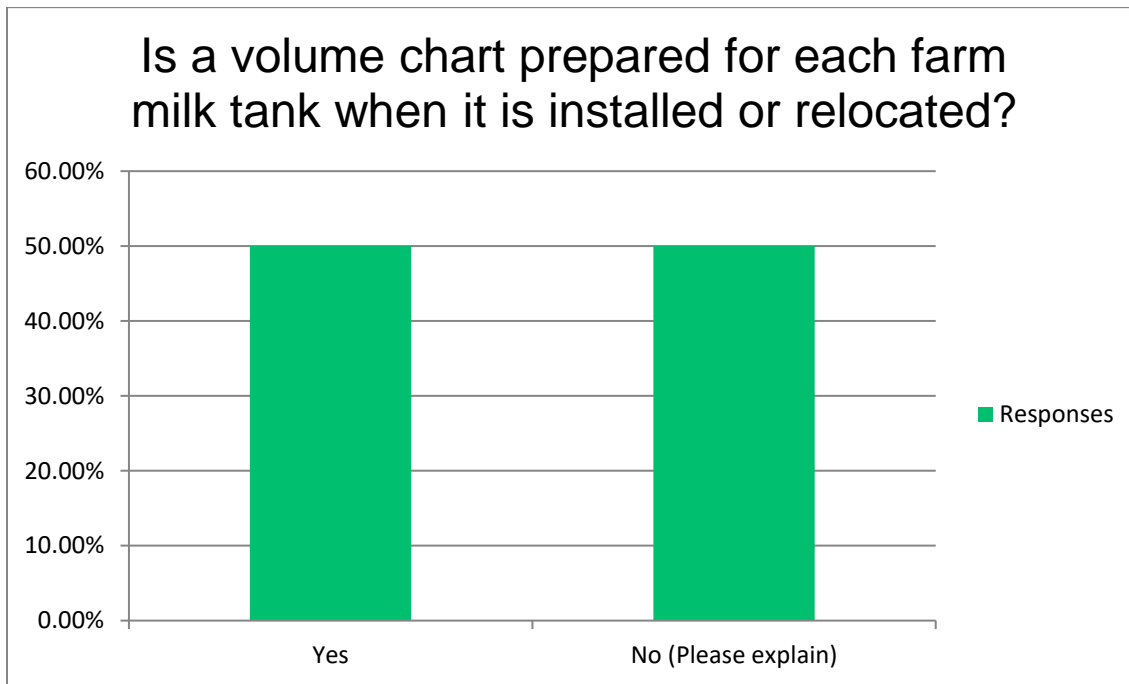
Vehicle Scale used on site

Unknown

Vehicle scale

Vehicle scale at creamery

**Questions 10-11: Is a volume chart prepared for each farm milk tank when it is installed or relocated?**



12 respondents answered this question.

6 (50%) answered Yes.

6 (50%) answered No and provided the following explanations:

To the best of our knowledge we do not have tanks that would require it

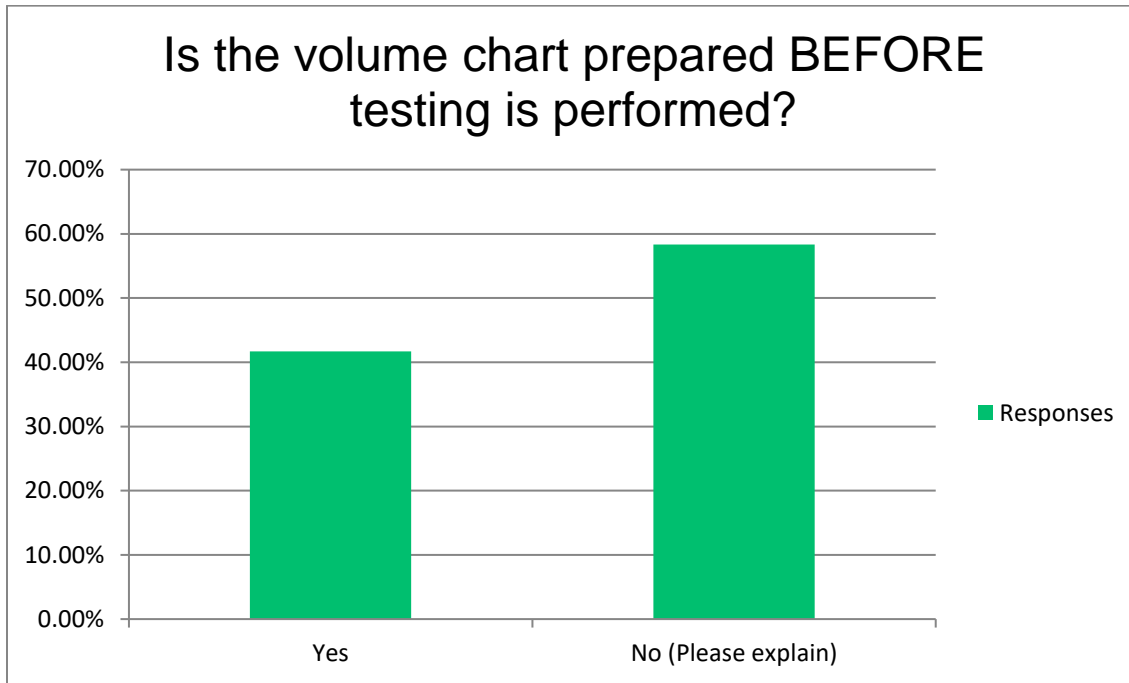
Unknown

Our county does not do inspections

No knowledge

I would assume so, we do not currently test

**Questions 12-13: Is the volume chart prepared BEFORE testing is performed?**



12 respondents answered this question:

5 (42%) answered Yes.

7 (58%) answered No and provided the following explanations:

N/A

Unknown

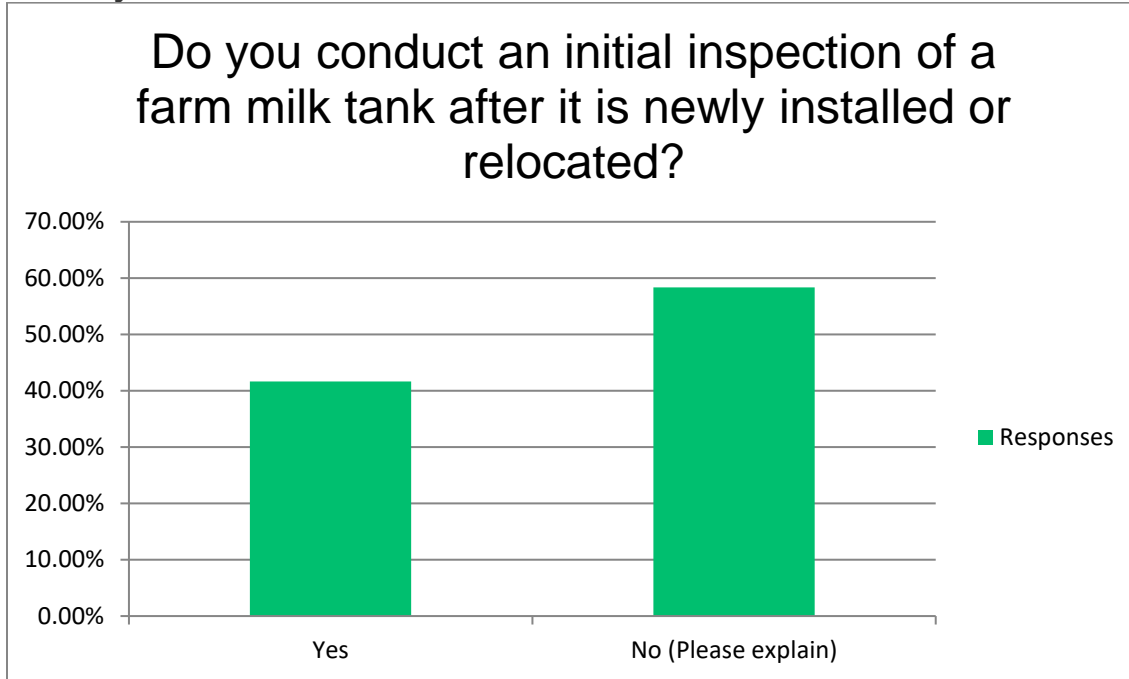
Unknown

Our county does not do inspections

Not applicable

I would assume so, we do not currently test

**Questions 14-15: Do you conduct an initial inspection of a farm milk tank after it is newly installed or relocated?**



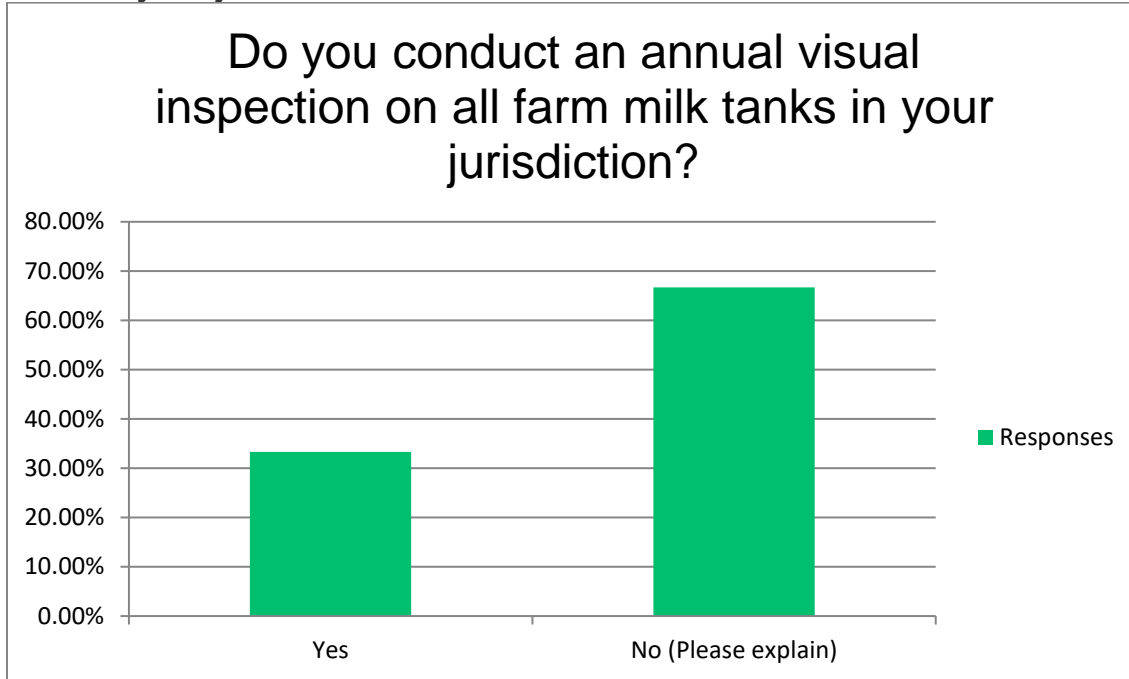
12 respondents answered this question.

5 (42%) answered Yes.

7 (58%) answered No and provide the following explanations:

- To the best of our knowledge we do not have tanks that would require it
- Fresno County has not received a placed in service report for the installation of a new milk tank since I started working in Fresno County in 2006
- Have not conducted any initial inspections
- We have not been notified of newly installed tanks
- Our county does not do inspections
- No, but I am aware of an RSA that does

**Questions 16-17: Do you conduct an annual visual inspection on all farm milk tanks in your jurisdiction?**



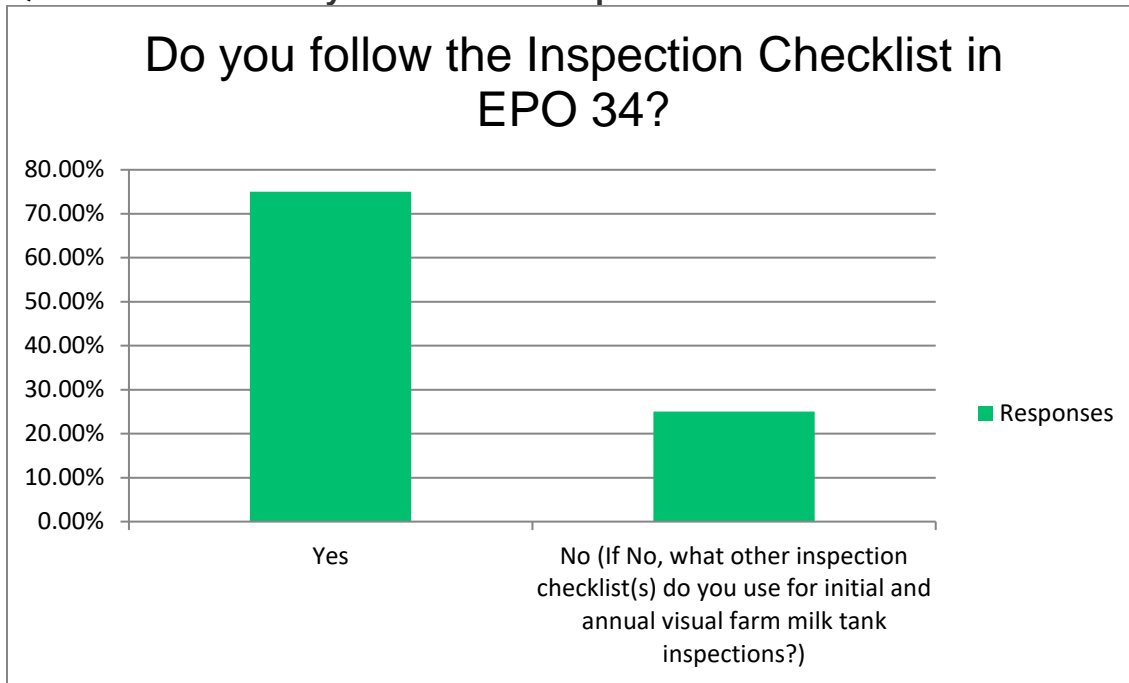
12 respondents answered this question:

4 (33%) answered Yes.

8 (67%) answered No and provided the following explanations:

- To the best of our knowledge we do not have tanks that would require it
- According to my prior supervisor, all the sales of milk were based on weights certificates issued at the dairies
- Unknown if farm milk tanks exist in my jurisdiction
- No tanks currently registered
- Because of limited staffing and milk tanks not being commercial we do not have thew staffing to check
- Our county does not do inspections
- We do not
- There are too many of them for us to practically inspect all

**Questions 18-19: Do you follow the Inspection Checklist in EPO 34?**



12 respondents answered this question:

9 (75%) answered Yes.

3 (25%) answered No and provided the following explanations:

Have not inspected any farm milk tanks. Would follow checklist if we did

Our county does not do inspections

If we did conduct these inspections the answer would be yes

**Question 20: According to DMS' County Annual Reports, farm milk tanks have had a very high device compliance rate (99%+) over the last 5 years. However, what are the most common reasons a farm milk tank would fail inspection?**

10 Respondents provided the following explanations:

Improper maintenance leading to leaks

Tank is no longer level

Unknown

Damage

Unknown

N/A



Our county does not do inspections  
Inspections have not been performed

Don't know

If the concrete pad it is installed on sinks

**Question 21: Is there something we forgot to ask? Please include any additional information you think DMS should know about the use of farm milk tanks.**

2 respondents provided the following:

Of counties that inspect milk tanks, how much do they charge for the inspections?

N/A