



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

**Gary W. Black**  
Commissioner

Dear Georgia Food Manufacturer:

As the Georgia Department of Agriculture strives toward an integrated food safety system, the importance of outreach and transparency in this public/private partnership is imperative. Ultimately, we share the common goal of providing a service to the consumer – safe food.

We are using this opportunity to inform and remind facilities that manufacture food products in Georgia are required to conduct finished product testing according to the established frequency identified for your facility.

The Georgia Department of Agriculture has incorporated a risk based inspection system that allows the Department to better allocate resources to control the risks posed to public health. This risk based approach captures and documents variables used to determine risk within facilities such as type of products produced, distribution, and past compliance history. Any changes in any of the factors will result in a re-evaluation of risk for the facility which directly affects its frequency of inspection and finished product testing.

The current risk assessment for this location has been provided to you. The risk category will directly affect the amount of time spent in your facility and the frequency of inspection. It will also directly determine the frequency of finished product & finished product ingredient testing required in Regulation 40-7-18-.06. Exemptions to the testing requirement are described in Regulation 40-7-18-.10.

Your firm is required to conduct finished product or finished product ingredients testing at a frequency designated by your risk:

**Accelerated High – Weekly (or more frequently)**

**High – Bi-monthly (twice a month)**

**Moderate – Monthly**

**Low - Quarterly**

Each firm determines, according to the product(s) produced, which test shall be sufficient to detect the presence of poisonous or deleterious substances or other contaminants that would cause a food or ingredient to be injurious to health.

If you receive any confirmed positive test result indicating the presence of a substance that would cause a manufactured food bearing or containing the same to be adulterated with the presence of poisonous or deleterious substances or other contaminants, this shall be reported to the Department within 24 hours after obtaining such result. Report positive test result by e-mail to [positiveresults@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:positiveresults@agr.georgia.gov).

For more information and access to the Georgia Department of Agriculture Additional Regulations Applicable to Processing Plants, visit our website at <http://www.agr.georgia.gov/manufactured-foods.aspx>.

If you have any questions or you were not provided the risk category, please feel free to contact Krissa Jones at 404-657-4801 or by e-mail at [Krissa.Jones@agr.georgia.gov](mailto:Krissa.Jones@agr.georgia.gov).

We look forward to working together through this public / private partnership towards food safety.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Food Safety Division