
Federal Monitoring of Milk for Radionuclides: EPA and FDA Update

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is no longer sampling milk as part of the radiological monitoring network, RadNet. EPA completed its final quarterly milk sample collection in April 2014 and the results from analyzing those samples, along with historical milk sampling results, will continue to be available on [Envirofacts](#).

EPA is stopping milk sampling because it is redundant of U.S. Food & Drug Administration programs, and FDA has the authority/responsibility for food safety, including monitoring radiation in milk.

FDA's Food Sampling Programs

The FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs collects and analyzes food, including milk, for radionuclides under two programs: 1) the Total Diet Study (TDS) and 2) the Toxic Elements in Food and Foodware, and Radionuclides in Food program.

Total Diet Study (TDS) or "Market-Basket Survey"

- Four types of milk (whole, skim, low-fat, and chocolate), as well as other dairy products, are analyzed at least once a year for radionuclides.
- Food samples from grocery stores and restaurants are collected in cities throughout the country.
- More information on FDA's TDS is available at:
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodScienceResearch/TotalDietStudy/default.htm>

Toxic Elements in Food and Foodware, and Radionuclides in Food Program

- The frequency of milk sample collection and radionuclide analysis varies from year to year depending on the locations targeted and other factors.
- Milk samples are collected from commercial dairy farms in the vicinity of nuclear power plants.
- More information on FDA's Toxic Elements in Food and Foodware, and Radionuclides in Food program is available at:
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodborneIllnessContaminants/ChemicalContaminants/ucm2006907.htm>

The extent of FDA's milk sample collection and analysis during an emergency would depend on the nature and scale of the event. The FDA's Office of Crisis Management (OCM) serves as the agency's focal point for coordinating emergency and crisis response activities involving FDA regulated products.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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