



October 15, 2002  
DDOD-134

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

## NOTICE

**TO:** All Warehouse Operators Approved to Store Nonfat Dry Milk Under the Processed Commodities Storage Agreement

**SUBJECT:** Mold Prevention / Rejection of Nonfat Dry Milk

Warehouse operators shall be aware that mold problems increase when changes in the weather occur. Warehouse operators should take all necessary steps to maintain the condition of NDM. Mold on bags of NDM may cause the milk to deteriorate to "no grade".

Although it may be possible to reclaim this product, it is not economically responsible nor reasonable that the Commodity Credit Corporation should accept the risks associated with reclaiming this product. Any NDM determined to have moldy bags will be rejected as warehouse damage, a form WA-570, Inventory Adjustment Notice will be prepared, and a claim established against the warehouse operator.

Should it be determined some product will be repackaged, it shall be carried out in an area equivalent to a processing plant, and under the direct supervision of Agricultural Marketing Service, and the Dairy Grading Branch must be willing to issue a clean grading certificate.

Mold consist of a body that has "roots" and a "stalk". The roots are tiny threads that invade the food (in this case the paper bag). The stalk rises above the food substrate and form "spores" at their ends. These spores spread the mold from place to place.

Warehouse operators shall take preventive measures such as heating the warehouse, providing a means of dehumidification, keeping pallets dry and placed in the facility to allow adequate ventilation, forced air circulation, and use of large portable fans mounted close to the floor, to reduce or eliminate excessive humidity.

It is imperative that the warehouse operator establish a procedure to check the floors, floor pallets, space between upper and lower boards of floor pallets, and lower bags, so that if moisture condenses, immediate action can be taken to avoid mold growth. Discretion should be used with vent fans, especially if the outside humidity is much higher than the inside humidity, circulate dry outside air through the warehouse when outside humidity levels are low, and inspect warehouse on the NDM every day as weather changes.

Warehouse operators are cautioned that, depending on various physical factors such as temperatures, humidity, dew points, etc., proper corrective measures in one situation may be detrimental in another. Warehouse operators are responsible for determining the specific action that should be taken in each situation, and shall be accountable to CCC for losses from mold contamination of CCC-owned commodities if caused by negligence and/or inaction of the warehouse operator.

The warehouse operator should immediately notify the Kansas City Commodity Office, by contacting Roger Stiles at 816-926-2609 or Barbara Williams at 816-926-3299, if a moisture or mold problem is detected.



George W. Aldaya  
Director  
Kansas City Commodity Office