



2024 Produce Safety Rule Qualified Exemption Registration Worksheet

TELEPHONE: (410) 841-5769 FAX (410) 841-2750 EMAIL: produce.safety@maryland.gov

This worksheet is for your use in determining if you are eligible for the Qualified Exempt status and documenting the required annual review. The Produce Safety Rule Qualified Exempt Registration Form (page 2) is required to be filed with MDA annually to exclude you from the inventory of farms required to fully comply with the Produce Safety Rule.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) is enforcing the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Produce Safety Rule through Maryland legislation that was effective July 1, 2019. Information on individual farms collected through this program will not be shared with any entities or persons outside of the MDA unless it is part of an active food borne illness outbreak investigation. All data collected concerning farms is shared with FDA as aggregate data only. If you have questions concerning your eligibility, please review the MDA "Produce Safety Rule Exemptions and Compliance Dates Fact Sheet" or contact MDA at (410) 841-5769 or produce.safety@maryland.gov.

Complete this worksheet (page 1) and retain for your records, DO NOT submit Page 1 to MDA

Name of Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Title of Person conducting annual review: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Farm: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Insert your total food sales (all food for human and/or animal consumption, not just produce sales for 2021, 2022, and 2023).

2. Add your 2021, 2022 and 2023 Total Food Sales

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
(2021) (2022) (2023) (Total food sales three years)

3. Divide your Total Three Year Food Sales by three to calculate your average.

\_\_\_\_\_ Divided by "3" = \_\_\_\_\_
(Total food sales for 3 years from step 2) (Three year average value)

Pause and assess: If your three-year average value of food sales is <\$638,491, proceed to step four of this worksheet to determine if you are eligible for 2024 Qualified Exempt status. If your three-year average value is >\$638,491, you are not eligible for this exemption. Please refer to the other exemption categories to determine if you are eligible for another type of exemption. On a rolling basis and adjusted for inflation; current value is based on adjusted inflation value for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

4. Enter your direct food sales to Qualified End Users

Qualified End User: Consumers, restaurants and/or retailers in Maryland OR not more than 275 miles from your farm.

5. Add your direct food sales to Qualified End Users.

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
(2021) (2022) (2023) (Three year total food sales to Qualified End Users)

6. Divide your Total Qualified End User Three Year Food Sales by three to calculate your average.

\_\_\_\_\_ Divided by "3" = \_\_\_\_\_
(Total Qualified End User food sales for 3 years from step 5) (Three year average value of sales to Qualified End Users)

7. Enter your direct food sales to all other buyers (E.g. wholesale).

8. Add your direct food sales to all other buyers.

\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
(2021) (2022) (2023) (Three year total food sales to all other buyers)

9. Divide your Total Three Year Food Sales to all other buyers by three to calculate your average.

\_\_\_\_\_ Divided by "3" = \_\_\_\_\_
(Total "other buyer" food sales for 3 years from step 8) (Three year average value)

? Is the three year average value (Step 9) less than the three year average value of sales to qualified end users (Step 6)?

YES - You are eligible for the Qualified Exemption, fill out and submit the registration on page 2.

NO - You are NOT eligible for this exemption even though your food sales are less than \$638,491.

Date of Annual Review:

Signature of Reviewer:



Maryland Department of Agriculture

Office of Marketing, Animal Industries and Consumer Services

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Kevin M. Atticks, Secretary
Steven A. Connelly, Deputy Secretary

Food Quality Assurance

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry
mda.maryland.gov

The Wayne A. Cawley, Jr. Building
50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-841-5769 Baltimore/Washington
410-841-2750 Fax

Maryland Produce Safety Program - 2024 Produce Safety Rule Qualified Exempt Registration

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Note: File this form with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to be excluded from the inventory of farms required to fully comply with the Produce Safety Rule. You are not required to apply for the Qualified Exemption just because you are eligible. If you are eligible and do not apply for the Qualified Exempt status, you will be considered fully covered by the Produce Safety Rule and your compliance date will be based on your annual produce sales.

Name of Farm

Name of person filing

Telephone

Email

Mailing Address

Mailing City, State and Zip Code

Farm Location Address(s)

Please select a category for the previous three-year average gross produce sales from your operation:

Small (\$250,000-\$638,491);

Very Small (\$31,925-\$250,000)

I/we acknowledge the following:

- My/our farm was eligible for a qualified exemption based on total food sales for this year because the average sales value of all food is less than or equal to \$638,491... and more than 50% of the food sales for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 were to Qualified End Users.
I/we are required to maintain records verifying our status as Qualified Exempt that may be inspected by the Maryland Department of Agriculture.
I/we are required to review our records annually to verify we continue to meet both the sales value of food and sales to a Qualified End User requirements of the Qualified Exempt category and document the review.
I/we are required to submit the Qualified Exempt registration form annually to MDA to remain in the Qualified Exempt category.
I/we are required by law to provide the name and complete business address of the farm where the produce was grown either on a label or at the point of sale while operating under the Qualified Exempt category as of January 1, 2024.
I/we understand my/our Qualified Exempt status may be revoked if there is an active investigation of food borne illness linked to my/our farm and/or it is determined necessary by MDA and/or FDA to protect public health.
Qualifying my/our farm for this exemption does not preclude me/us from following the requirements of the FDA Produce Safety Rule and Maryland Produce Safety Program.
Qualifying my/our farm for this exemption does not exempt my farm from complying with all adulteration and other applicable provisions under the U.S. Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act.
Qualifying my/our farm for this exemption does not exempt my/our farm from complying with other applicable Maryland and local laws and regulations.

Filers Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Filers Title: \_\_\_\_\_