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## Filled Milk Regulated

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has amended Federal milk marketing orders as of Jan 1 to provide specific ways for regulating the dairy ingredients of filled milk

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service officials said the action was taken after the required approval of two-thirds (three-fourths in five of the orders) of dairy farmers supply-

determined by polling their cooperative associations

Filled milk is a beverage containing either fresh liquid skim milk, or skim milk reconstituted from nonfat dry milk, with added vegetable fat or oil in place of the natural butterfat. Filled milk will be designated as Class I (fluid milk) under Federal milk orders

C&MS officials said the amended orders are based on a

public hearing in February, April and May 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. Today's action and an earlier one on the Central Arizona order, now add the filled milk provisions to all but four Federal milk orders. The Georgia and Southeastern Minnesota-Northern Iowa orders, not in effect at the time of the hearing, are not included. Action on the Minneapolis-St. Paul and Mississippi orders is deferred until consideration is given to the filled milk amendments in the expanded marketing areas, effective May 1 and November 1, respectively.

The Federal milk marketing orders set minimum prices which milk handlers or dealers must pay farmers from whom they buy milk. The orders do not set retail prices, however.

While filled milk has been priced as a fluid milk product under most Federal milk orders ever since its introduction into the markets some two years ago, it previously has not been mentioned specifically in fluid milk product definitions, C&MS officials said.

The amended orders define filled milk as a product combining skim milk and nonmilk fat and resembling any other fluid milk product. Only products with less than six percent nonmilk fat are included.

Filled milk will be included in Class I along with other milk for fluid use. This will continue the current practice in most markets of maintaining a Class I classification for all producer milk in fluid disposition. Thus in most markets today's action will not generally change the cost to handlers for milk ingredients of filled milk.

On filled milk made with skim or reconstituted skim milk derived from unregulated sources and sold in a Federal order market, the amended orders provide for certain payments by handlers into the producer-settlement funds.

In markets where producer-handlers maintain some exemption while buying supplemental fluid milk products from regulated plants, filled milk will be included in their allowable purchases. But a producer-handler will no longer be exempt from regulation, if he uses reconstituted skim milk or unregulated milk for his sales of filled milk or other fluid milk products.

Also, the sale of filled milk will not be a basis for qualifying a plant for pooling under a milk order. Various other changes have been made in administrative provisions, including reporting requirements for handlers, and allocation provisions.

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