

901:3-1-03

**Plant and Grounds.****(A) Grounds.**

The grounds surrounding a food plant under the control of the operator shall be kept in a condition that will protect against the contamination of food. The methods for maintenance of grounds include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Properly storing equipment, removing litter and waste, and cutting weeds or grass within the immediate vicinity of the plant buildings or structures that may constitute an attractant, breeding place, or harborage for pests.
- (2) Maintaining roads, yards, and parking lots so that they do not constitute a source of contamination in areas where food is exposed.
- (3) Draining areas that may contribute contamination to food by seepage, foot-borne filth, or providing a breeding place for pests.
- (4) Operating systems for waste treatment and disposal in a manner so that they do not constitute a source of contamination in areas where food is exposed.

**(B) Plant construction and design.**

Plant buildings and structures shall be suitable in size, construction, and design to facilitate maintenance and sanitary operations for food manufacturing purposes. The plant and facilities shall be designed and constructed:

- (1) To provide sufficient space for such placement of equipment and storage of materials as is necessary for the maintenance of sanitary operations and the production of safe food.
- (2) To permit the taking of proper precautions to reduce the potential for contamination of food, food-contact surfaces, or food packaging materials with microorganisms, chemicals, filth, or other extraneous material. The potential for contamination may be reduced by sanitation standard operating procedures and operating practices or effective design, including the separation of operations in which contamination is likely to occur, by one or more of the following means: location, time, partition, air flow, enclosed systems, or other effective means.
- (3) To permit the taking of proper precautions to protect food in outdoor bulk fermentation vessels by any effective means, including:
  - (a) Using protective coverings.
  - (b) Controlling areas over and around the vessels to eliminate harborage areas for pests.

(c) Checking on a regular basis for pests and pest infestation.

(d) Skimming the fermentation vessels, as necessary.

(4) In such a manner that floors, walls, and ceilings may be effectively cleaned and kept clean and kept in good repair; that drip or condensate from fixtures, ducts and pipes does not contaminate food, food-contact surfaces, or food packaging materials; and that aisles or working spaces are provided between equipment and walls and are unobstructed and of sufficient width to permit employees to perform their duties and to protect against contaminating food or food-contact surfaces with clothing or personal contact.

(5) To provide at least twenty foot-candles of light, thirty inches above the floor, where food is stored; at least twenty foot-candles of light, thirty inches above the floor, in hand-washing areas, dressing and locker rooms, and toilet rooms; and fifty foot-candles of light at a surface where food is examined or processed, and where equipment or utensils are cleaned.

(6) To provide safety-type light bulbs, fixtures, skylights, or other glass suspended over exposed food in any step of preparation or otherwise protect against food contamination in case of glass breakage.

(7) To provide adequate ventilation or control equipment to minimize odors and vapors, including steam and noxious fumes, in areas where they may contaminate food; and locate and operate fans and other air blowing equipment in a manner that minimizes the potential for contaminating food, food-packaging materials, and food-contact surfaces.

(8) To provide, where necessary, effective screening or other protection against pests.

Replaces: 901:3-1-05, 901:3-41-02, 901:3-39-01, 901:3-39-03

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