

# Maple Inspection Results (January-June 2022)

Food Safety & Consumer Protection Division  
 Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

## Summary

- Food Safety and Consumer Protection (FSCP) Division staff conducted 19 maple product inspections at retail locations between January and June 2022. See table 1.
- Staff reviewed product labeling and sampled maple syrup to ensure products comply with Vermont grade standards for quality, food safety, and labeling.
- 59% of pure maple syrup products sampled were in compliance (n=49).
- Color was the most common reason for syrup found out of compliance. 16 of the 20 maple syrup products found out compliance were too dark for grade. See table 2.
- Maple syrup that was too dark for grade was more common among Golden/Delicate and Amber/Rich grades, and among plastic containers across all grades and container types sampled. Note, sample sizes are very small. See table 3.
- Other notable issues found:
  - Lead contamination (1) – confirmed by product testing which resulted in voluntary recall
  - Mold (1)
  - Off-flavors: buddy (2) and metallic (1 – associate with the lead contamination above)
  - Density: low (2) and high (1)
  - Labeling: no batch code (4) and other labeling issues (4) including one maple flavored product and two artificial maple flavored products

Table 1 – Maple Product Inspection Data 1/22 to 6/22

<i>Total retail inspections</i>	19
<i>Routine</i>	13
<i>Follow-up</i>	1
<i>For-cause/complaint</i>	5
<i>Producers/distributors inspected</i>	39
<i>Maple syrup products sampled</i>	49
<i>Maple syrup products inspected</i>	366
<i>Other maple products inspected</i>	72
<i>Maple flavored products inspected</i>	96
<i>Artificial maple flavored products</i>	3
<i>Compliance notices issued</i>	18

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Table 2 – Inspection results by product type, grade, and reasons

<b>Product Type</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>Reasons</b>
<i>Pure maple syrup</i>	GD	1	3	color dark (3), flavor strong (1)
	AR	19	9	color dark (8), flavor strong (1), mold (1), density high (1), no batch code (3)
	DR	9	8	color dark (5), flavor strong (2), buddy (2), metallic off-flavor (1), density low (2), density high (1), no batch code (1), labeling (1), lead contamination (1)
	VDS	-	-	
<i>Maple flavored</i>			1	labeling (1)
<i>Art. maple flavored</i>			2	labeling (2)

Table 3 – Color inspection results by grade and container type

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Container type</b>	<b>Color IN</b>	<b>Color OUT</b>	<b>% IN</b>
GD	plastic	0	2	0%
	glass	1	1	50%
AR	plastic	7	7	50%
	glass	11	1	92%
	other	2	0	100%
DR	plastic	5	3	63%
	glass	4	2	67%
	bulk	2	0	100%
	other	1	0	100%
VDS	-	-	-	