

Milk Quality



Farmer Requirements

Inhibitors

Milk must be free of substances that inhibit bacterial growth in raw milk, including veterinary drug residues. Penalties are applied if inhibitors of any type are in penalty range in the bulk tank milk sample. Losses and cost may also be charged to an offending producer when a tanker-truck is contaminated if the farmer's milk sample contains inhibitors in penalty range.

Abnormal Freezing Point

Milk has a normal freezing point of less than -0.506°C . A penalty is applied if the official Cryoscope result is greater than the specified level for Abnormal Freezing Point (AFP) of -0.507°C .

Bacteria

In Canada, there are two methods to measure bacteria level in raw milk. In a first method called Bactoscan, milk must contain less than 122,000 Individual Bacteria Cells (IBC) per mL. The second method, used in some provinces and other countries is called Standard Plate Loop Count, and the equivalent threshold is 50,000 CFU/mL.

Somatic Cell Count (SCC)

Milk must contain less than 400,000 individual cells (IC) per mL. A milk sample with a test result greater than 399,000 IC/mL is in the penalty range.