



Fact Sheet

Changes to Milk Quality Regulations

Target implementation date: March 1, 2017

SCC AND BACTERIA REGULATIONS

Quality Area	Upcoming Ontario Regulations	Key Elements
SCC	<p>A SCC demerit applies each time a bulk tank test result is greater than 400,000 cells/mL.</p> <p>A SCC penalty applies when the producer has at least one SCC demerit in the third month of a rolling three-month period AND the percentage of SCC demerits in the rolling three-month period is equal to or greater than 40 per cent.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A demerit is a penalty level test result: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC greater than 400 bacteria greater than 121 Penalties are administered in a rolling three-month period The % demerit is calculated over each rolling three-month period (not for each individual month in the rolling three-month period) SCC and bacteria penalties are calculated separately
Bacteria	<p>A bacteria demerit applies each time a bulk tank test result is greater than 121,000 IBC/mL.</p> <p>A bacteria penalty applies when the producer has at least one bacteria demerit in the third month of a rolling three-month period AND the percentage of bacteria demerits in the rolling three-month period is equal to or greater than 40 per cent.</p>	

While the following two examples are based on SCC penalties, the same system will apply for bacteria penalties. Each column shows the SCC test results for a given month (June, July and August). Normal results (less than 225) appear in white. Elevated results (between 225 and 400) appear in yellow, while penalty-level test results (greater than 400) appear in red. A counter in the column next to each penalty-level test result keeps track of the number of SCC demerits in the month.

Example 1:

Test result counter	1 st month		2 nd month		3 rd month	
	June		July		August	
	SCC	#	SCC	#	SCC	#
1	342		411	1	337	
2	399		223		306	
3	401	1	272		346	
4	534	2	341		220	
5	400		346		419	1
6	482	3	314		319	
7	460	4	264		311	
8	507	5	448	2	430	2
9	565	6	294		437	3
10	436	7	308		491	4
11	596	8	412	3	451	5
12	557	9	306		427	6
13	596	10	422	4	400	
14	577	11	353		265	
15	382		332		314	
16			342			

A	Determine if there is at least one demerit in the third month – In this example, the producer had six demerits in the month of August	Yes
B	Count the number of SCC demerits in the rolling three-month period B = 11 + 4 + 6 = 21 demerits in June, July and August	21 demerits
C	Count the total number of test results in the rolling three-month period C = 15 + 16 + 15 = 46 test results in June, July and August	46 test results
D	Calculate the percent demerit in the rolling three-month period and round to the nearest whole, as follows: % demerit = (B ÷ C) x 100 % demerit = (21 ÷ 46) x 100 = 45.7% rounded to 46%	46%

If this is the producer's first penalty in a rolling 12-month period, a \$3 per hectolitre charge will be applied to all milk shipped during the month of August. Second and subsequent penalties increase to \$4 and \$5 per hectolitre, respectively. If the producer incurs four SCC penalties in a 12-month rolling period, the dairy facility will be shut off from the milk market.

Example 2:

Test result counter	1 st month		2 nd month		3 rd month	
	June		July		August	
	SCC	#	SCC	#	SCC	#
1	552	1	476	1	289	
2	673	2	413	2	339	
3	770	3	475	3	317	
4	843	4	533	4	321	
5	600	5	401	5	357	
6	583	6	441	6	324	
7	557	7	400		350	
8	583	8	282		227	
9	468	9	288		283	
10	603	10	309		301	
11	494	11	324		279	
12	412	12	349		239	
13	351		314		257	
14	402	13	321		224	
15	478	14	338		351	
16						

A	<p>Determine if there is at least one demerit in the third month – In this example, the producer had no demerits in the month of August</p>	No
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Because there are no demerits in August, this producer avoids a penalty for this month, regardless of the number of demerits in June and July. Calculating the percent demerit for the rolling three-month period ending in August is not necessary.

No demerits in August = No penalty in August

While this producer avoids a penalty in August, they may have received a penalty in June and July, depending on the test results in previous months. The demerits in July will be used for penalty calculation in September.

Rule of thumb
For every-other-day pickup

Depending on the number of test results, more than 17 demerits in a rolling three-month period may result in a penalty being applied.

Test results for milk shipped on and after the implementation date count towards penalty calculation under the demerit system. Penalties applied under the previous penalty programs within a rolling 12-month period are carried forward.

ABNORMAL FREEZING POINT REGULATIONS

Under the upcoming regulation, an Abnormal Freezing Point (AFP) penalty applies when the producer has a second or subsequent AFP test result greater than -0.507°C in a rolling 12-month period no sooner than 18 days from the previous AFP in penalty range.

A charge of \$3 per hectolitre will be applied on all milk shipped during the month for the first AFP penalty in a rolling 12-month period. Second and subsequent penalties increase to \$4 and \$5 per hectolitre, respectively. If a producer incurs four AFP penalties in a rolling 12-month period, the dairy facility will be shut-off from the milk market.

The producer will receive a “warning” notification for the first penalty-level test result in a rolling 12-month period. However, if an inhibitor is found in the milk sample, an inhibitor penalty will be applied (\$6, \$9 and \$12 per hectolitre for first, second and third level penalty, respectively).

ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE REGULATIONS

The new animal care and welfare regulations will become part of the Grade A inspection program and include:

- Prohibition of docking cattle’s tails unless medically necessary as approved in writing by a veterinarian;
- Housing to prevent injuries and lameness;
- Provision of hoof care to prevent lameness;
- Provision of adequate ration and access to water;
- Proper animal identification for traceability and herd management;
- Proper storage of deadstock until removal or disposal according to provincial regulations;
- Adherence to provincial and federal animal transportation regulations; and
- Provision of veterinary report and requirement to follow veterinarian recommendations when there is evidence of potential animal welfare issues.