

The use of automated analysers for monitoring the hygienic quality of milk which provide rapid enumeration of the bacteria in raw milk is increasing. These instruments can be used for payment analysis and monitoring on-farm hygienic status, or for monitoring the microbiological quality of incoming raw milk at dairy processing facilities. This enables serious contamination to be rapidly detected, allowing poor quality milk to be rejected and only the best-suited milk used for dairy production.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the BactoChek proficiency programme is to provide an independent system for laboratories to validate their flow cytometry instrumentation and testing capability.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN BACTOCHEK

➤ **Confidence in Results:**

Measurement of performance in comparison with other laboratories provides confidence that:

- Precision and Accuracy of test results and test methods are within acceptable limits
- Results from participating laboratories (or groups of laboratories) are equivalent
- In-house or instrumental methods are equivalent to national or international standard methods

➤ **Credibility:**

Performance can be demonstrated to:

- Customers
- Regulatory Authorities
- Accreditation Agencies

➤ **Compliance with:**

- Laboratory Standards (e.g. ISO 17025)
- Regulatory and market access requirements

➤ **Training:**

Test performance from individual analysts can be monitored and reported over time.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Freeze dried vials which are proven to provide a simulated milk format upon reconstitution
- Use of robust and stable microorganisms suitable for assessing performance of rapid analysers to establish proficiency
- Individual Reports per round for each test

SAMPLE TYPES

Samples are offered as a four-sample set, consisting of freeze-dried vials for preparation of “simulated” milk samples.

The programme is conducted monthly, with monthly sample sets consolidated into six monthly consignments in January and July.

AVAILABLE TESTS

- Individual Bacteria Count (IBC/mL)
- CFU Equivalent (x1000 cfu/mL)

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS

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