

	<b>West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources</b>				
	<b>MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES</b>				
Section	Milk	Date	July 1, 1993	Procedure #	M-3
Subject	Enforcement Procedure for Somatic Cell Count and Bacteria Count in Raw Milk Intended for Grade "A" Use			Page	1 of 2

The Federal [Pasteurized Milk Ordinance](#) and the West Virginia [Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Rules](#) establish standards for milk and milk products intended for Grade "A" uses. The current standards for bacteria count and somatic cell count in raw milk are as follows:

**Bacteria Count** - Individual producer milk not to exceed 100,000 per ml. prior to commingling with other producer milk. Commingled milk not to exceed 300,000 per ml. prior to pasteurization.

**Somatic Cell Count** - Individual producer milk not to exceed 750,000 per ml. (1,000,000 per ml. for goat milk).

The procedures outlined herein are to be followed when raw milk samples are found to exceed the above standards.

I. Sampling

- a. During any consecutive six months, at least four samples of raw milk for pasteurization must be collected, in at least four separate months, for official laboratory analysis from each producer dairy farm and each milk plant commingled raw storage tank.
- b. Samples must have been collected by the Sanitarian, or by a fieldman or a bulk tank milk hauler possessing a valid health department hauler-sampler permit.

II. Permit Notice and Suspension Procedure

- a. Send an official notice when "2 of the last 4" samples exceed the Grade "A" standards for bacteria count or when "2 of the last 4" samples exceed the Grade "A" standards for somatic cell count.
- b. An additional sample must be taken within 21 days of sending the "2 of 4" notice but not before a lapse of 3 days.
- c. Send an official permit suspension order when "3 of the last 5" samples exceed the Grade "A" standards for bacteria count or when "3 of the last 5" samples exceed the Grade "A" standards for somatic cell count.
- d. A copy of all notices and suspension orders must be mailed routinely to the milk plant, dairy cooperative/milk procurement organization and the central office.
- e. All milk produced during the suspension must be diverted to other than Grade "A" milk operations.

### III. Permit Reinstatement Procedure

The producer dairy's permit shall be provisionally reinstated if the following conditions are met:

- a. The producer dairy must submit completed form SM-145, Request for Permit Reinstatement, thereby requesting an inspection and making application for reinstatement.
- b. Inspection by the Sanitarian must be made of the producer dairy within two days from the date of receipt of the signed request. The inspection score must be ninety percent (90%) or higher with all milking equipment, milk contact surfaces and vacuum systems clean and operating properly.
- c. Certified laboratory results must indicate that the producer dairy's milk meets the standard for which the suspension was ordered (bacteria count and/or somatic cell count).
- d. If the suspension was due to high somatic cell counts, the producer dairy must obtain a statement from a veterinarian or a fieldman that the entire milk producing herd has been checked for abnormal milk. Cows having abnormal milk must be removed from the milking herd or milked last or on separate equipment and the milk discarded.

The producer dairy's bacteria count and somatic cell count record starts new with the reinstatement sample.

If the suspension was due to high somatic cell counts, additional samples from the producer dairy shall be examined for somatic cell count at the rate of not more than two per week on separate days within a three week period following reinstatement.

### IV. Full Reinstatement of Permits

Provisional (temporary) permits resulting from suspension due to high bacteria or somatic cell counts will be considered fully reinstated when a total of five (5) samples subsequent to suspension do not result in further enforcement action under the enforcement procedures.

#### References

[Pasteurized Milk Ordinance](#)  
[64 CSR 34 – Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Rule](#)

#### History

#### Attachments

Form SM-145, Request for Reinstatement of Permit  
Sample Notice and Suspension Letters (4)