Inhibitor Load Testing Program

Effective January 1, 2017

Load Testing Program

Rapid inhibitor tests are used by plant personnel to test loads of milk prior to the milk being unloaded. Loads of raw milk are rejected by a receiving plant when an inhibitory residue is detected using a rapid inhibitor test.

Processing plants are eligible to receive compensation from Dairy Farmers of Ontario (DFO) for inhibitor testing at set rates provided they use an inhibitor test approved by DFO. A list of DFO approved inhibitor tests that processing plants can use to be eligible to receive compensation from DFO follows:

- Charm Rosa 3 SL3 Beta-Lactam (LF-SL3)
- Charm SL Beta-Lactam (LF-SLBL)
- Charm Rosa SL Beta-Lactam (SL5)
- Charm Rosa Sulfa Test (LF-SULF)
- Charm Rosa Tetracycline (LF-TET)
- Charm MRL Trio for Beta-Lactams, Tetracyclines and Sulfonamides
- IDEXX SNAP Beta-Lactam (99-09290 & 99-09291)
- IDEXX SNAP Sulfamethazine (99-13380)
- IDEXX SNAP Tetracycline (99-11470)

DFO and the Ontario Dairy Council (ODC) will consider adding new tests as they become available. If a new test is approved, DFO and ODC Agreement will be revised and processing plants and parent companies will be advised of any changes.

Confirmatory Testing Procedures

When a load of raw milk screens suspect positive for an inhibitor residue, the truck is to be held by the processing plant pending confirmation that the inhibitor testing hardware is working properly and that a second or subsequent test is conducted and confirms the original positive test result. The second or subsequent test devices used to confirm the first positive test results shall be from the same manufacturer and if possible taken from a different batch or device lot number.
The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) through its service provider, the Laboratory Services Division of the University of Guelph (UGLSD), confirms the presence or absence of inhibitory residues in bulk tank samples.

DFO transportation officers arrange to have the UGLSD test the producer bulk tank samples and load samples associated with a positive load identified through the pre-screening process by a processor. The UGLSD uses the same pre-screening test for both load samples and bulk tank samples as was used by the processor for official confirmatory testing.

**Compensation**

Processors who pre-screen using the eligible tests are compensated at a rate of $3 per compartment times the number of classes tested (compartments must be individually tested). Currently, Beta-Lactams, Sulfonamides and Tetracyclines are the drug classes DFO compensates processors for. If a processor tests for all three classes on a load delivered with a two-compartment trailer, the processor would be entitled to $18 in compensation for that load.

Compensation for inhibitor testing was automated as of May 1, 2015 starting with loads tested in May 2015. In order to receive the compensation for load testing, invoice submissions will no longer be required by processors who test all of their raw milk loads. Processors who intermittently test loads must submit an invoice indicating the date, transporter, load number, load volume and the number of compartments tested in order to receive compensation for testing.

**Milk Disposal**

DFO transportation officers will arrange to dispose of loads of milk that test positive at the plant on both the initial and confirmatory inhibitor screening tests conducted by the receiving plant.

**Losses, Costs and Penalties**

Where the producer bulk tank sample is determined to be officially positive by the UGLSD:

- the milk in the bulk tank of the positive producer is placed under detention. This means the milk of the producer is not marketed until a DFO Field Services Representative obtains a negative result from the producer’s bulk tank, and conducts an investigation into the reason that a detectable residue was present in the bulk tank of milk that was offered for sale; and

- DFO, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 761, will levy a penalty on the milk of the producer whose sample was positive. If the load test is also officially positive, the producer(s) that caused the contamination will also be assessed load losses and costs.
Costs and losses shall be divided equally if there are two or more producers found to be positive on the same load of milk.

**Loads Received by Ontario Processors from Quebec**

The policy outlined above also applies to loads of milk produced in Quebec and delivered to Ontario dairy plants. The plant personnel will notify DFO of the positive load and DFO in turn will advise the processing plant and Les Producteurs de lait du Québec of next steps.