

SUPPLEMENT C – HERD TESTING PROCEDURES FOR MILKING HERDS

SC1 - Overview

With the advance in milking technologies, the New Zealand standard NZS 8100:2015 *Dairy herd testing* enables herd testing to be undertaken from herds with distributed milking systems. Herd testing is therefore possible for both batch and distributed milking herds. The certified herd tester is approved to verify and submit all data to the core database administrator (see Appendix D of NZS 8100:2015).

The herd testing is to be completed using the general procedure that representative subsamples are collected on farm and each subsample is linked to the milk yield for the specific milking from which the sample was collected. The subsamples are then:

- (a) Submitted to the herd testing laboratory; or
- (b) The certified herd tester may process the subsamples to form a composite sample which is representative of the herd test period for each individual cow. These composite samples are then submitted to the herd testing laboratory.

For batch milking refer to Appendix B of NZS 8100:2015 for the list of allowable on-farm recording combinations.

For distributed milking herds the herd testing procedure requires milk samples to be collected from all cows at each milking during the herd test. The only difference between batch and distributed milking is the length of the herd test period. The herd test period is either 36 h or 16 h depending on the average number of milkings for each cow in the herd in a 24 h period. The herd average is calculated based on the average number of milkings for each individual cow milked in the 48 hours preceding the herd test period. If the average number of milkings for the herd average is ≤ 2 milkings per 24-hour period then the herd test is required to be 36 hours. If the average number of milkings for the herd average is > 2 milkings per 24-hour period then the herd test is required to be 16 hours.

The procedures for herd testing on farm, up to and including the submission of milk samples to a herd testing laboratory are the intellectual property of the certified herd tester. The certified herd tester is required to have all herd testing procedures and processes documented for herd testing procedures for batch milking or distributed milking herds. All documentation shall be available for audit purposes, including for distributed milking herds, the calculation of the duration of the herd test period.

Certified herd testers use the same procedures for converting milk yield, milk composition, and somatic cell counts to a 24-hour equivalent period before submitting the data to the core database. The agreed procedures for calculating the 24-hour herd test milk volumes, milk components, and milk characteristics are can be found in Appendix C.