

GUIDELINE 13

Seek professional advice if problems persist

In this guideline:

13.1 Seek professional advice from professional advisors if mastitis indices are above warning levels

13.2 Seek advice if mastitis indicators are above warning levels

13.3 Record problems and actions taken

Trained advisors are available in all regions to investigate and help you solve your mastitis and milk quality problems.

A team approach is often required because solutions require the expertise of different professionals.

SmartS^{AMM} provides tools and resources that can be used by veterinarians, milking machine technicians and milk quality specialists throughout New Zealand.



Good Read

[Technote 13 - Seek professional advice if problems persist](#)

13.1 Review mastitis indicators regularly.

Regular checking of key indicators provides an early warning of problems.

SmartS^{AMM} recommends that action is taken when the warning levels described in Tables 1 or 2 have been reached.



Check your Mastitis Focus

Check your [Mastitis Focus](#) report after each herd test or after uploading clinical mastitis records. The report uses clinical mastitis treatment records and individual cow SCC data to give an overview of udder health in your herd, and help identify problem areas and risks as well as track progress after management changes.

Table 1. Take immediate action and seek help when alert (critical) levels are reached.

Factor	Alert levels
Bulk Milk SCC See Guideline 11 for more on monitoring SCC.	One or more SCC above grading (eg. 400,000 cells/mL) or above alert level (eg. 300,000 cells/mL) from dairy company.

Table 2. Take action and seek help when trigger levels are reached, before problems escalate.

Factor	Warning levels
Bulk Milk SCC See Guideline 11 for more on monitoring SCC.	Regular spikes in SCC (eg. increase of 50,000 cells/mL or more above previous tests) OR Upward trend in SCC is steeper than target curve OR Monthly average SCC above industry average, or your herds' target for past 3 months.
Clinical case rate. See your Mastitis Focus report.	More than 8 clinical cases per 100 cows calved (or 16 cases per 100 first calvers) for monthly clinical case rate at calving OR More than 1 clinical case per 100 cows in milk for monthly clinical case rate in lactation.
Individual cow SCC. See your Mastitis Focus report.	More than 10 cases per 100 cows in milk per month for new infection rate - subclinical and clinical. OR More than 30% for first calver new infection rate.
Cultures	The presence of <i>Strep. agalactiae</i> in any culture samples. The presence of <i>Staph. aureus</i> in the majority of culture samples.
Teat Condition See Guideline 9.1 for more on unacceptable teat conditions.	5% of cows (2% of teats) affected by gross lesions or cracks. OR Teat condition is unacceptable and does not improve three weeks after changes made to machines or disinfectant mix.

13.2 Seek professional advice if mastitis indicators are above warning levels.

Seek advice from your professional advisors and put into action the advice you are given.

Your advisor(s) will help identify which factors are influencing the mastitis status of your herd and the quality of milk supplied to the dairy company. They will need to:

1. Examine bulk milk SCC, clinical mastitis and dry cow treatment records and herd test SCC data.
2. View and interpret your Mastitis Focus reports
3. Visit the herd during milking time to check the milking machine, cow flow, milking procedures and teat condition.



See www.smartsamm.co.nz for a full [list of accredited vets](#).

See www.smartsamm.co.nz for a full [list of current certified milking machine technicians](#).



SmartSamm Mastitis Investigation Kit

The [Mastitis Investigation Kit](#) provides a process and recording sheets to carry out a thorough investigation.

See [Technote 13](#) for more information on the process.

13.3 Record problems and actions taken.

Record details in a notebook, your dairy planner or Fonterra Dairy Diary.

Work with your advisor(s) to review changes in mastitis indicators over time.

For many problems, improvements should occur within a matter of days. If this is not the case, go back to your advisor(s) and discuss further.