

Parlour Hygiene & Bacto Breakdown Guidance Notes



Test	Indicated problem	Target levels	Recommended actions
(cfu/ml unless otherwise stated)			
Total Viable Count 30°C A measure of all live bacteria in the milk	Overall hygiene of milk produced	Green < 5,000 Amber 5,000 - 10,000 Red > 10,000	Investigate bacteria from the udder/environment. Check the plant and/or bulk tank.
Coliforms Environmental contamination	Poor teat preparation	Green < 20 Amber 20 - 40 Red > 40	Check plant cleaning. Review pre-milking teat preparation (pre-dipping recommended).
Thermodurics Bacteria that withstand high temperatures and grow in dirty milking systems	Inadequate plant cleaning	Green < 150 Amber 150 - 500 Red > 500	Poor plant cleaning. Ensure the boiler is heating correctly, check wash concentrations, volumes of solution etc.
Psychrotrophs 21°C (Rapid method) Bacteria able to grow at refrigeration temperatures (can be found in water and bedding)	Inadequately cleaned bulk tank, poor milk cooling and/or dirty bedding	Green < 500 Amber 500 - 5,000 Red > 5,000	Check milk cooling and bulk tank cleaning. Review pre-milking teat preparation

For further advice on interpreting these results please consult your vet or milk quality consultant

