

Proposed Regulatory Changes to Bacterial Standards for Milk

Current Regulatory Requirement (with Chapter 59 Reference)	Proposed Regulatory Requirement (with Chapter 59a Reference)	Reason for Proposed Change
<p>Subchapter E. 59.504 Milk for Manufacturing Bacterial Estimate Classification</p> <p>Classifies a producer's milk as Undergrade when a direct microscopic clump count, standard plate count or plate loop count result is over 1,000,000 per ml.</p>	<p>Subchapter C. Production and Processing of Milk for Manufacturing Purposes 59a.109 Bacterial estimate classification (c) Excessive bacteria.</p> <p>Decrease in manufacturing grade milk bacterial limits for individual producer from 1,000,000/ml to 500,000/ml</p>	<p>In 1985, Pennsylvania adopted the USDA Recommended Requirements as our rules pertaining to manufacturing grade milk and manufactured grade dairy products.</p> <p>The USDA Recommended Requirements have since been updated. Chapter 59a seeks to reference the most current revision of the USDA standards including the more stringent bacterial limits for individual producer and commingled milk for manufacturing.</p>
<p>Subchapter G. 59.708 Manufacturing Plants Raw Product Storage:</p> <p>(b). The bacteriological quality of commingled milk in storage tanks shall be 3 million/ml or lower.</p>	<p>Subchapter E. Manufacturing Plants - General Requirements 59a.308 Raw product storage (b) Bacteriological quality.</p> <p>The bacteriological quality of commingled milk in storage tanks must be 1 million/ml or lower.</p>	<p>This change is also in keeping with the updated USDA Recommended Requirements as referenced above.</p>
<p>59.52. Table. Milk for Pasteurization</p> <p>Somatic cell count---</p> <p>Samples exceeding 18 mm WMT to be confirmed by DMSCC or acceptable tests. Not to exceed 1 million per ml.</p>	<p>59a.19. Standards for Grade "A" raw milk for pasteurization, ultra-pasteurization or aseptic processing (b) Reference to applicable provisions of the Grade "A" PMO....Standards for Grade "A" Raw Milk for Pasteurization....</p> <p>Somatic Cell Count – Individual producer milk not to exceed 750,000 per ml (Goat Milk 1,000,000 per ml) ---2007 Grade "A" PMO, Page 28-29</p>	<p>The current version of Chapter 59 references the 1978 edition of the PMO and references the somatic cell count standard that existed in the PMO at that time. The PMO is updated each two years.</p> <p>Chapter 59a seeks to adopt the most current version of the Grade "A" PMO and therefore its most current milk quality standards. The PMO somatic cell standard for milk for pasteurization was lowered to 750,000 many years ago.</p>
<p>59.52 Table Raw Milk</p> <p>Somatic cell count---</p> <p>Samples exceeding 18 mm WMT to be confirmed by DMSCC or</p>	<p>59.408. Regular testing of raw milk.</p> <p>At least twice each month</p> <p>Somatic cell Count</p>	<p>Both the Grade "A" PMO and the USDA Recommended Requirements now reference a 750,000/ml Somatic Cell Count standard. The vast majority of dairy producers, therefore, are regulated under this standard and the WMT is no longer</p>

<p>acceptable tests. Not to exceed 1 million per ml.</p>	<p>The somatic cell count may not exceed 750,000/milliliter.</p>	<p>an approved test for somatic cell count determination.</p> <p>Therefore the Department seeks a uniform somatic cell count standard across the entire spectrum of milk for pasteurization, with the exception of an added allowance for goats milk.</p>
<p>Subchapter E. Milk for Manufacturing</p> <p>59.509. Abnormal Milk:</p> <p>Samples exceeding 18 mm WMT to be confirmed by DMSCC or acceptable tests. Not to exceed 1 million per ml.</p>	<p>Subchapter C. Production and Processing of Milk for Manufacturing Purposes</p> <p>59a.110. Somatic Cell Count: (c) Excessive somatic cell count.</p> <p>Decrease in manufacturing grade milk somatic cell count limit for individual producer milk from 1 million per ml to 750,000 somatic cells per milliliter.</p>	<p>As mentioned above, Chapter 59a seeks to reference the most current version of the USDA Recommended Rules. The USDA Recommended Rules have been updated and are now parallel to the current PMO with regard to the somatic cell count standard.</p>
<p>Subchapter C. Miscellaneous Provisions</p> <p>59.308 Recordkeeping</p> <p>(1)(i) Chemical and bacteriological tests, including SPC, GI, coliform group and somatic cell count.</p>	<p>59.408. Regular testing of raw milk.</p> <p>At least twice annually: Test for presence of pathogenic bacteria including Salmonellae, Listeria monocytogenes, Camphylobacter, and E. Coli 0157:H7.</p> <p>There may be no pathogenic bacteria present.</p>	<p>The Department has been conducting pathogen surveys of milk samples from raw milk permit holder bulk tanks for several years.</p> <p>These tests have been positive for one or several raw milk pathogens on more than one occasion.</p> <p>While periodic testing for pathogens cannot guarantee the safety of raw milk, we believe that there is ample public health justification for requiring permit holders to monitor for the presence of pathogens on a periodic basis.</p>