

# Food Safety



## Notice of Change: New Reference Manual and Workbook

**New Documents:** **CQM Reference Manual and Workbook, September 2015**  
(Replacing June 2010 version)

**Effective Date:** **October 1, 2015**

**Transition Date:** **April 1, 2016:** Registered producers must have the new requirements implemented, and validations and Self-Declarations will contain the new and revised requirements.

Dairy Farmers of Canada has issued an up-dated Reference Manual and Workbook for the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) program. The revised documents can be downloaded from the proAction® website ([www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction](http://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction)). The program is transitioning to the Food Safety chapter of proAction. The CQM Technical Committee and proAction Committee reviewed the materials extensively and Dairy Farmers of Canada's Board of Directors has approved the changes. The changes are listed below according to the categories: new requirements, revised requirements, and clarifications or revisions.

### 1) New Requirement:

**Cattle Health Declaration (Question 20): Do you have a Cattle Health Declaration signed by your veterinarian annually and the most recent version kept on file?**

Reference Manual: Chapter 3, Section 3.2.1; and, Workbook: Section C.

**Rationale:** The National Dairy Code, Section 31, states that no producer shall sell or offer for sale milk that is obtained from an animal that shows evidence or visible signs of disease transmissible to humans by milk or that adversely affects the quality or flavour of the milk. Some countries require an official control on dairy farms to demonstrate that Section 31 is being followed. The majority of milk in Canada is destined for the domestic market; however, some is exported. Because milk in Canada is pooled, all farms must meet the requirement, and the Cattle Health

Declaration is designed to satisfy the requirement. The Cattle Health Declaration is in the Workbook, Section C, but a copy is also attached to the end of the notice.

### 2) Revised Requirements

a) **Sewage Sludge (Question 9): *If you use sewage sludge, do you have the necessary approval/permits required to use sewage sludge on your farm?***

Reference Manual: Chapter 1, Section 1.3.3.

**Rationale:** The question was simplified from a two-part question to one single question. The intent of the requirement did not change.

**b) Cattle Identification (Question 18): Do you identify all cattle according to the National Livestock Identification for Dairy (NLID) program or the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) program or according to Agri-Tracabilité Québec (ATQ)?**

Reference Manual: Chapter 3, Section 3.1.

**Rationale:** The question was revised to include the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) program. The question was revised for accuracy, because farmers outside of Quebec with nonregistered cattle can identify their cattle with either NLID or CCIA tags before the cattle leave the farm of origin.

Please note: this requirement will be replaced with the proAction Livestock Traceability requirements in 2017. Farmers are encouraged to adopt the proAction Livestock Traceability requirements on a voluntary basis now. Please contact your Provincial Coordinator for more information on proAction.

**c) Deviations and Corrective Action Records (Question 66): Do you keep a record of any problems that have occurred with and the corrective actions taken regarding:**

- Any treatments administered to animals (Record 17)?
- Inhibitor residues in milk (Record 17)?
- Cooling and storage of milk (Record 12 / 17)?
- Equipment sanitation and hot water/wash water temperature (Record 13 / 17)?
- Water quality (Record 15 / 17)?
- Shipping animals (Record 17)?

Reference Manual: Chapter 9, Section 9.4; and Workbook, Section C.

**Rationale:** Question 66 combines the previous Questions 32, 42, 44, 49, 60, and 63, which was done to eliminate redundancy and to streamline the validation process. The intent of the requirements did not change.

**d) Milk Temperature (Question 43): Is the bulk tank temperature recorded and checked after every milking for each bulk tank?**

Reference Manual: Chapter 6, Section 6.1; and Workbook: Chapter C, Record 12.

**Rationale:** The requirement was revised to clarify that the temperature of milk in each bulk tank on a farm must be monitored to ensure that it meets temperature requirements. For example, if a farm has more than one bulk tank, the farmer must have a Record 12 for each tank or electronically monitor the temperature of the milk in each tank.

**e) Milking Equipment Cleanliness (Question 47): Do you regularly inspect and record the cleanliness of milking equipment (e.g. receiver jar and bulk milk tank) for each washing system (e.g. each CIP system and each bulk tank) (minimum acceptable frequency is monthly, weekly is recommended)?**

Reference Manual: Chapter 7, Section 7.1.2; and Workbook: Chapter C, Record 13.

**Rationale:** Some farms have more than one washing system, so the requirement has been expanded to include a milking equipment sanitation record for each system. The milking equipment sanitation check is designed to help farmers identify cleaning issues early and prevent problems from occurring. The check is only effective for the system that is being evaluated. As a result, each washing system must be evaluated on a regular basis.

**f) Water Temperature (Question 48): Do you check and record the temperature of the hot water from the tap or wash water at least monthly?**

Reference Manual: Chapter 7, Section 7.1.2; and Workbook, Section C, Record 13.

**Rationale:** the requirement was changed from the option of checking the temperature of the pre-rinse water to the hot water from the tap. The best practice is to check the temperature of the wash water at the end of the cycle to ensure that adequate temperature is maintained throughout the wash. However, farmers can choose to check the temperature of the hot water directly from the tap, for convenience. The option was changed to the hot water from the tap because it should be easier for farmers to achieve and should provide enhanced value to checking the pre-rinse water temperature.

**g) Wash System Evaluation (Question 51): Do you have each wash system evaluated annually by an industry professional and have the deficiencies been corrected?**

Reference Manual: Chapter 7, Section 7.1.5; and Workbook, Section C, Record 14b.

**Rationale:** the requirement has been expanded to include multiple wash systems. Some farms have more than one wash system, and an annual wash system analysis is required for each system. The wash system analysis is designed to ensure that the wash system is working effectively. The check is only effective for the system that is being evaluated. As a result, each wash system must be analyzed.

**3) Clarifications or Revisions**

- a) **Chapter 1: Cattle Hygiene Chart:** the cattle hygiene chart has been up-dated.
- b) **Chapters 2 and 5: Iodine:** recommended best management practices related to iodine have been included.
- c) **Chapter 3:** Many clarifications related to current livestock identification regulations and the DFC dairy traceability principles have been incorporated.
- d) **Chapter 4:**
  - The example drug labels have been updated.
  - Information on imported drugs, drugs used in combination, written veterinary directions, and milk withdrawal time calculations has been included.
  - The information on how to mark a treated animal as treated with a computerized milking system was clarified.
- e) **Chapters 6, 7, and 10:** Time Temperature Recorder (TTR) alarm parameters have been revised to match the TTR Specifications (e.g. storage temperature between milkings, cold water washes).
- f) **Chapter 7:** Information on cold water detergents or Reduced Temperature Detergents (RTDs) has been included. If a farmer is using a detergent that does not require a warm or hot wash, the farmer does not need to check the temperature of the hot water or wash.
- g) **Chapter 8:** Information on traceability has been up-dated and included throughout the chapter.

**h) Chapter 10: Automatic Milking Systems (AMSs)**

- Information has been included on calculating milk withdrawal times.
- Question 37 (clean, sanitize and dry teats before milking) was deleted because Chapter 10 only lists the exceptions to the requirements for conventional systems. AMSs are also required to clean, sanitize and dry teats before milking.
- Requirements related to milk temperature monitoring and TTRs has been clarified.

**i) Workbook:**

- **Veterinary Directions for Extra-label Drug Use (Record 8):** The record has been revised from a “prescription” to “directions” and it includes better information fields.
- **Cleaning and Sanitizing Chart (Record 14):** The record has been

revised to be more generic and applicable to different types of washing protocols.

- **Annual Wash System Evaluation (Record 14b):** The record has been revised to be more generic and applicable to different types of washing protocols.
- **Recommended questions:** The recommended questions have been deleted. The information is still contained in the Reference Manual but the questions have been removed, as they are not included in the validation process.

**j) Overall:** many edits have been made throughout the Reference Manual and Workbook to correct mistakes, add clarity or provide more information. Also, previous Notices of Changes have been incorporated into the text.

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**Who can I contact for more information?**

1. Your provincial producer association
  2. Visit: [www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction](http://www.dairyfarmers.ca/proaction)
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## Cattle Health Declaration

**Producer Name (Name on License):** \_\_\_\_\_

**License #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Veterinarian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Veterinarian Declaration:**

As of this date, I have visibly observed the general health status of the cattle in this herd and found them to be healthy, or receiving satisfactory care and treatment for routine health conditions. I have verified that this producer has in place a system for identifying treated and sick cows and for preventing milk from these cows from entering the producer's bulk tank(s).

**Veterinarian's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** the Declaration is valid for one year and must be renewed annually.

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### **Guidelines for the Declaration:**

The intent of the Cattle Health Declaration is to satisfy the export requirement from foreign countries to demonstrate that milk used in exported products is sourced from healthy animals. An annual herd health inspection conducted by a veterinarian is the minimum requirement.

A veterinarian should look for evidence or visible signs in the herd for a disease that is transmissible to humans by milk or that adversely affects the quality or flavor of the milk. If the milk is considered acceptable by the provincial regulatory body, the veterinarian should be able to sign the Declaration.

All Canadian producers are required to obtain the Declaration because milk is co-mingled in Canada and milk destined for export products is not segregated.

The Cattle Health Declaration does not include animal welfare. It is specific to animal health.