

# **Notice to the Industry**

## **Changes to the Review Procedures for Somatic Cell Counts (SCC) and Standard Plate Counts (SPC) to Verify Compliance with European Export Requirements**

January 26, 2010

In June of 2009 the European Community (EC) sent a team of auditors from their Food and Veterinary Office (FVO) to audit US controls on dairy products being exported to the EC. During this review the FVO audit team noted that when the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) conducted reviews of the milk records to verify that the milk that went into dairy products that were exported to the EC met EC requirements for SCC and SPC's, silo or tanker test records were sometimes used to make the determination. This was not in agreement with EC regulations that state: "A representative number of samples of raw milk collected from milk production holdings taken by random sampling must be checked for compliance .....". The statement "milk production holdings" refers to the actual farms. Therefore the correct records to use are actual SCC and SPC records from tests taken on the milk at the farm level.

Effective immediately, all AMS reviews of milk records for compliance with EC export requirements will be made on farm records. We are no longer able to accept testing of silos or tankers for compliance with these requirements. These records should show a rolling, three month, geometric mean for each producer, with all producers meeting the EU requirements. Before certifying to compliance with EC requirements for SCC and SPC, the principles requesting export certification must be able to provide AMS with access to the farm milk quality records. AMS will continue to review the records for each export applicant annually.