QMI Method of Sampling Tanker Trucks

In previous newsletters, we have pointed out that many people in the dairy industry believe that the QMI method of sampling from the side or rear of the truck has several advantages:

1. It allows for a more accurate sample (representative and aseptically collected),
2. It helps with receiving bay efficiency by allowing samples to be taken before trucks enter the receiving bay,
3. This method of sampling will help the industry comply with the Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, and
4. It improves sampling safety by allowing samples to be taken from the ground.

At present, this method of sampling is only allowed for component analysis. However, QMI is seeking approval from the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS) for this method of sampling for antibiotics, Somatic Cells and Standard Plate Counts (SPC's).

An FDA guided study was conducted to determine the comparability of the QMI method of sampling versus the traditional regulatory approved sampling method (dip sampling).

Fifty data points were collected under the supervision of Chris Thompson, Milk Coordinator for the Division of Regulatory Services at the University of Kentucky.

An additional fifty data points were collected in Minnesota under the supervision of Mary Bolthaus from the Dairy Quality Control Institute (DQCI Services).

These certified laboratories conducted SPC's, Somatic Cell Counts (SCC's) and inhibitory tests on all 50 samples at each location.

The data was submitted to the FDA for statistical evaluation. The FDA found that the data were not statistically different.

In summary, the data suggest that the QMI sampling method is an equivalent and reasonable alternative to the dip sampling method.

Discussions with the FDA indicate that the Laboratory Quality Assurance Branch would recommend approval of the QMI sampling method for tanker trucks.

At present, there are a number of approved uses for the QMI method of sampling.

Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products (3.005 and 3.43E) approved the QMI Sampling System for tank and silo sampling. In addition, the QMI method in FDA memo M-I-06-6 Inline Sampling (May 15, 2006) has been approved by the NCIMS for line sampling.

Furthermore, the FDA issued Memorandum M-I-06-12 on August 18, 2006. This Memorandum includes SOP's for collecting samples from farm vertical and horizontal tanks using the Aseptic Sampler and sterile needle procedure (QMI System). These memos are available on our website or by contacting us.

A proposal has been submitted by QMI to the NCIMS Committee requesting action at the meetings scheduled in May on the QMI Sampling System.

QMI will inform its customers of their decision when it becomes available and will post additional information on our website and in upcoming newsletters.
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