

- Service twice a year
- IMQCS technician
- Written test report
- Carry out recommendations

Virtually all infections enter the udder through the teat openings. Your milking machine spends 50-100 hours attached to each teat in lactation. Machine malfunctions can cause teat damage and increase the risk of infection.

Refer to Guideline 6

Maintain and monitor milking machine function.

Refer to Management Note H

IMQCS milking machine test reports.

25.1 Fully test and service your milking machine twice a year

In addition, it should be monitored, tested and adjusted as often as necessary during lactation.

25.2 Use a milking machine technician who tests to IMQCS standards

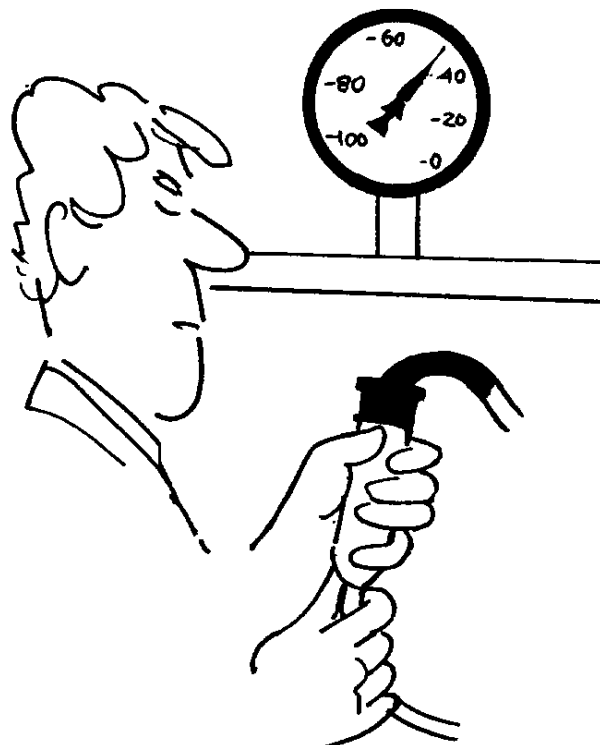
Make sure the technician performs the tests according to IMQCS standards and the technician should preferably have a current IMQCS qualification (or equivalent). Confirm this before making the booking.



Don't rely only on the routine service

Immediate additional testing and service is recommended if any of the following are observed:

- Cows appear to milk slowly or incompletely.
- Clusters slip or fall off frequently.
- Teat condition is poor.
- Cows appear nervous or uncomfortable.



25.3 Insist that the technician provides and explains a full written report

The IMQCS test report form provides details of milking machine performance after a routine service. It also indicates any outstanding faults and recommendations.

The technician should explain the details of the report to you.

Compare the test report with a previous year. Assuming the installation has not been modified they should be similar. The service checklist should also be completed, as it provides a comprehensive list of what has been checked and serviced.

If there is a problem with mastitis in the herd the milking machine should be tested before any servicing or adjustment is done and again after the service. In this case two test reports should be completed.

25.4 Carry out all recommendations

Make a plan with a schedule which will fit in with work commitments and cash flow. Don't put off making your plan for some other time.

You may also find it useful to discuss the plan with your other milk quality advisors (your CellCheck advisor, veterinary practitioner or other milking specialist).