

## SEDIMENT

Sediment is objectionable to the consumer and can reduce the efficiency of the manufacturing process.

The sediment test measures physical contamination of milk (dung, cow hair, skin, dust etc) resulting from unhygienic milking procedures, dirt from poorly washed udders, poor filtering, open vat lids etc.

The milk sample is drawn through a special filter that retains the sediment. The filter is then compared to a standard chart.

### Control Measures

- Keep the teats in good condition by using creams or emollients. High acid water and over-wet teats can cause cracking.

Prepare cows properly before milking. Remove such material as dust, dirt, cow manure and hair from udders and allow teats to drain before cluster application, don't over wash the cows with water.

Use clean sediment free water for teat preparation to prevent sediment introduction.

- Check that your filter is of adequate size for your machine or the number of cows you milk, or replace the filter during milking to prevent bursting.

Always filter the milk before the milk cooler to prevent foreign matter lodging between the plates and causing build-up and sanitation problems.

Use only approved filters and don't use filters, which contain weaknesses or flaws.

- Use the filter socks only for the recommended time. This is usually one milking.
- Keep the exterior of the clusters clean, particularly when cows' legs are muddy.

Keep manure and dirt hosed away from the milking area to prevent material being drawn into the system if the clusters fall or are kicked off.

Ensure that milkers have clean hands and clothing for milking to prevent sediment being drawn up into the system when handling clusters.

- Trim hairy udders to reduce hair and dung contamination.
- Trim tails to prevent dung being spread over the cows' udder.
- Reduce stress on cows to prevent them from dunging especially in the milking area and associated yards.
- Keep the gateways and races in good repair.

- Do not put the stock in the same night paddock continually.
- Keep milk tank lids closed and plug or cover the milk entry hole to prevent material gaining access to the raw product.

Article end.