§ 58.132

The quality classification of raw milk for manufacturing purposes from each producer shall be based on an organoleptic examination for appearance and odor, a drug residue test, and quality control tests for sediment content, bacterial estimate and somatic cell count. All milk received from producers shall not exceed the Food and Drug Administration’s established limits for pesticide, herbicide and drug residues. Producers shall be promptly notified of any shipment or portion thereof of their milk that fails to meet any of these quality specifications.

(a) Appearance and odor. The appearance of acceptable raw milk shall be normal and free of excessive coarse sediment when examined visually or by an acceptable test procedure. The milk shall not show any abnormal condition (including, but not limited to, curdled,ropy,bloody or mastitic condition), as indicated by sight or other test procedures. The odor shall be fresh and sweet. The milk shall be free from objectionable feed and other off-odors that adversely affect the finished product.

(b) Somatic cell count. (1) A laboratory examination to determine the level of somatic cells shall be made at least four times in each 6-month period at irregular intervals on milk received from each patron.

(2) A screening test may be conducted on goat herd milk. When a goat herd screening sample test exceeds either of the following results, a confirmatory test identified in paragraph (b)(3) of this section shall be conducted.

(3) Milk shall be tested for somatic cell content by using one of the following procedures or by any other method approved by Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products (confirmatory test for somatic cells in goat milk):

(i) Direct Microscopic Somatic Cell Count (Single Strip Procedure).

(ii) Electronic Somatic Cell Count (fluorescent dye).

(iii) Electronic Somatic Cell Count (particle counter).

(4) The somatic cell test identified in paragraph (b)(3) of this section shall be considered as the official results.

(5) Whenever the official test indicates the presence of more than 750,000 somatic cells per ml (1,500,000 per ml for goat milk), the following procedures shall be applied:

(i) The producer shall be notified with a warning of the excessive somatic cell count.

(ii) Whenever two out of the last four consecutive somatic cell counts exceed 750,000 per ml (1,500,000 per ml for goat milk), the appropriate State regulatory authority shall be notified and a written notice given to the producer. This notice shall be in effect as long as two of the last four consecutive samples exceed 750,000 per ml (1,500,000 per ml for goat milk).

(6) An additional sample shall be taken after a lapse of 3 days but within 21 days of the notice required in paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of this section. If this sample also exceeds 750,000 per ml (1,500,000 per ml for goat milk), subsequent milkings shall not be accepted for market until satisfactory compliance is obtained. Shipment may be resumed and a temporary status assigned to the producer by the appropriate State regulatory agency when an additional sample of herd milk is tested and found satisfactory. The producer may be assigned a full reinstatement status when three out of four consecutive somatic cell count tests do not exceed 750,000 per ml (1,500,000 per ml for goat milk). The samples shall be taken at a rate of not more than two per week on separate days within a 3-week period.

(c) Drug residue level. (1) USDA-approved plants shall not accept for processing any milk testing positive for...