

Food Safety



Fact Sheet: TTR Review Process

Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) has published specifications for Time Temperature Recorders (TTRs) with smart alarms for milk and wash water temperatures, and offers a review process for TTRs to determine if they meet the Food Safety program's TTR Specifications.

What is the purpose of the TTR Review Process?

The purpose of the TTR review process is to determine if TTRs meet the Food Safety program's TTR Specifications. The TTR review process identifies TTRs with smart alarms that can alert farmers to temperature problems for milk or on standard Clean-in-Place (CIP) procedures, thereby, eliminating the need for farmers to maintain manual records for bulk tank and wash water temperatures.

The intent of the TTR review process is to help farmers make informed choices; however, it is ultimately farmers' responsibility to ensure that the TTRs they purchase have the capability to perform to their expectations.

What is the TTR Review Process?

DFC has established a TTR Sub-Committee, which reviews TTRs to determine if they meet the Food Safety program's TTR Specifications. When a company requests a review, the TTR Sub-Committee follows the process outlined below:

1. Written submission: the company provides a third party engineer's report demonstrating of how the TTR meets all of the requirements in the proAction TTR Specifications. The report should include performance data showing the logic and demonstrating that the unit meets the proAction specifications.
2. proAction review: The proAction TTR sub-committee and/or consultant review the documentation. Questions and requests for additional information are sent back to the company, as required. If a consultant is used, the consultant reports results to the Sub-Committee.
3. On-farm visit: Once the written submission is satisfactory, one or two committee members review the performance of the TTR on farm. The TTR should have been on farm collecting data for about one month before the review. If a consultant does the review, the consultant reports results to the Sub-Committee. Follow-up may be needed with the company.
4. Approval: once the requirements are met and verified, the company signs a declaration and the TTR is approved and added to a list of TTRs, which is posted to the proAction website.

What does the TTR Review Process NOT include?

The TTR review process does not include installation. It also does not include any features that a company may include that are in addition to or not related to the TTR Specifications. For example, if a company includes an agitation alarm on the bulk tank or a conductivity alarm on the wash cycle, the TTR Sub-Committee does NOT review the functionality of these alarms. The TTR

review process only includes a review of the TTR's programming related to the TTR Specifications.

Finally, the TTR review process only evaluates how a TTR would perform on a standard CIP system. If a farmer implements different procedures, the TTR's expected sequence of events may be upset. For example, an unexpected rinse may trigger the TTR to expect a wash next instead of a milking, which will trigger a wash alarm.

Which TTRs are reviewed?

The TTR review process is open to all companies, but DFC only reviews those products that are

submitted, and it only reviews TTRs with smart alarms. If a company has not requested a review, its product will not be reviewed; and, therefore, will not appear on the list.

Who can I contact for more information?

1. Your provincial producer association
2. TTR companies
3. Visit: www.dairyfarmers.ca/proAction