

WMP Milk Quality Progressive Penalty Policy

Effective May 1, 2023

A Western Milk Pool (WMP) version of the Progressive Penalty Policy (PPP) is being implemented across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

In Saskatchewan, the policy is effective May 1, 2023.

How penalties are applied

Effective May 1, 2023, the PPP will have four penalty levels. Penalty rates increase based on how often a farm has marketed substandard milk within the last rolling 12 months (the same way as the existing Progressive Penalties accumulate):

PPP Penalty Level	Penalty Amount	Number of Infractions (within a rolling 12 month period)
1	\$5/hL	1-10
2	\$15/hL	11-20
3	\$45/hL	21-30
4	\$45/hl plus suspension	31 and up

Every occurrence over 30 within a rolling 12-month period triggers a penalty plus a potential milk pickup/licence suspension, with the following potential re-instatement conditions:

- 1st suspension (in a rolling 12-month period) is a minimum 6-day suspension. The producer must get a sample to the lab within that 6-day period that proves that the issue is corrected in order for the suspension to be lifted at the end of the 6 days. If such sample is not provided, the producer may make a request/appeal to the Board within 15 days of the suspension. The request/appeal must address, to the Board's satisfaction, the issues that led to the suspension, and the Board may reinstate the production license subject to any terms and conditions the Board may impose. If the producer has not addressed the issues to the Board's satisfaction within 30 days of the suspension, the Board may cancel the licence.

- 2nd suspension (in a rolling 12-month period) is a minimum 12-days suspension. The producer must get a sample to the lab within that 12-day period that proves that the issue is corrected in order for the suspension to be lifted at the end of the 12 days. If such sample is not provided, the producer may make a request/appeal to the Board within 15 days of the suspension. The request/appeal must address, to the Board's satisfaction, the issues that led to the suspension, and the Board may reinstate the license subject to any terms and conditions the Board may impose. If the producer has not addressed the issues to the Board's satisfaction within 30 days of the suspension, the Board may cancel the licence.
- 3rd suspension (in a rolling 12-month period) is a minimum 24-day suspension. The producer may make a request/appeal to the Board within 15 days of the suspension. The request/appeal must address, to the Board's satisfaction, the issues that led to the suspension, and the Board may reinstate the license subject to any terms and conditions the Board may impose. If the producer has not addressed the issues to the Board's satisfaction within 30 days of the suspension, the Board may cancel the licence.

What triggers an infraction?

When tracking penalty levels and infractions, the PPP considers Individual Bacteria Count (IBC), Somatic Cell Count (SCC), and Freezing Point Estimate (FPE) as *separate* infractions.

- If a farm markets a shipment of milk that fails to meet more than one of the quality standards, it will incur a penalty on *each* of the quality standards not met.
- Each penalty for IBC, SCC, and FPE progresses independently.

What triggers an infraction for each quality standard?

- IBC: greater than 121,000
- SCC: greater than 400,000
- FPE: -0.525 Hortvet or warmer

How the PPP affects farms with multiple tanks and multiple pickups

Multiple tanks

A penalty is only applied to the volume of milk in the tank containing substandard milk. For example, if a farm's first tank contains substandard milk, but the milk in the second tank meets quality standards:

- A penalty applies to the volume of milk shipped from the first tank, and
- The farm receives full payment for milk in the second tank.

Multiple pickups

To ensure equal treatment for farms with multiple pickups in a two-day period, all shipments of substandard milk in each two-day period of the month fall under a single infraction, i.e.:

- Period 1 = 1st & 2nd day of the month
- Period 2 = 3rd & 4th day of the month
- Period 3 = 5th & 6th day of the month, etc.

For months that end in an odd number, the last day is included in the last two-day period, i.e.:

- For months with 31 days, the 29th, 30th & 31st all count as period 15.
- For February 29th (leap year), the 27th, 28th & 29th all count as period 14.

How to keep track of infractions

The SaskMilk Portal provides two places under the Quality tab:

- Special Quality
- Progressive Penalty Results

Farmers should be familiar with this information and monitor these screens closely.

If you have any questions, please call the SaskMilk office at (306) 949-6999.