

# Protocol for identifying the source of bulk tank failures

Failing a milk buyer's antibiotic test is a stressful experience for any milk producer. However, it is essential to focus on identifying the problem and preventing any repetition. Whatever the possible cause – plant failure, animal identification error etc. – unless the problem is correctly identified and remedied before the next milking, additional failures are likely.

## **Essential steps to follow:**

A) ***Keep an open mind and ask the right questions***

B) ***Check the obvious:***

- Look for leaking valves in parlour?
- Were treated cows correctly identified at previous milking etc? **In many cases, the cause will be obvious! However, if not.....**

C) ***Commence immediate batch testing of all cows in milk:***

1. Take a clearly marked composite sample from each cow.
2. Ensure the sample is clearly marked with cow's ID
3. Divide the sample pots into batches of (say) 10 – 20 cows, depending on herd size.
4. Add ½ contents of each sample pot into a vessel large enough to take each batch. (Retain the remaining ½ samples.) Carefully record which milk sample are in each batch.
5. Test each batch with Delvotest®
6. If one of more batches give a 'positive' test result, test the individual cows retained in that batch to determine which is the culprit(s)

**For additional help or advice,**

**Please call Millwood Products on 01225 460 234**