

Procedures for Evaluating Vacuum Levels and Air Flow in Milking Systems

This publication presents methods for the evaluation of vacuum levels and airflow in milking systems. These methods are primarily for evaluating the adequacy of milking systems to maintain the average vacuum in the claw within the intended range during milking and the ability of the pulsation system to operate within the manufacturer's specifications. This document should not be considered a comprehensive guide to the evaluation of all factors necessary for successful milking. For example, it does not address the operator of the machine or their milking procedures.

The booklet covers three main tests: 1) milking-time tests; 2) dry test of pulsators; and 3) diagnostic dry test of vacuum and airflow. A complete system evaluation should be performed for any new installation, as part of a scheduled maintenance program, after major modifications to the system, or if milking-time tests indicate a potential problem.

Please note that NMC is not a standards setting organization. The procedures presented here are guidelines based on the standards developed by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) and the International Standards Organization (ISO). The standards referenced in this document are ASAE S518 (milking machine installation and performance) ASAE EP445 (measurement techniques), ISO 5707 (milking machine installation and performance) and ISO 6690 (measurement techniques).

The booklet includes one recording form that can be for documenting on-farm observations. Additional forms can also be purchased separately.

The cost for the booklet is \$12.95 for members (\$15.95 for non-members) plus shipping and handling. Additional forms (in packages of 25) cost \$2.50 per package (\$3.00 for non-members).

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