

Publishable Lactation Standards in Canada

Performance records for lactations are subject to a series of standards determined by the Canadian Dairy Improvement Industry. Lactation records must meet these service standards both for the individual animal and the herd(s) in which the record was accomplished.

Herd Standards

1. The herd must be tested at least 10 times within a 12-month period (of which at least five must be supervised) or a minimum of 8 if the herd is on a complete 24-hour supervised program.
2. Over the previous 12-month period, 80% of all first lactation animals at least 90 days in milk must be registered or recorded in a breed association herdbook.
3. The maximum interval between any two tests must not exceed 90 days.
4. Minimally, tests must alternate between supervised and unsupervised tests to prevent consecutive unsupervised testing.

Individual Animal Lactation Standards

In addition to the above herd criteria, there are specific standards that must be met by each specific cow during her lactation in order for it to be publishable.

1. The maximum interval between any two test day records must not exceed 90 days.
2. For completed lactations with at least 240 days in milk, the cow must have at least three usable supervised tests with components in the first 305 days of lactation.. For lactations terminated before 240 days in milk or lactations in progress, the required number of supervised tests is pro-rated to be one for up to 150 days in milk and two for records terminated between 150 and 240 days in milk.
3. The Lactation Rating, calculated by the DHI Agency as a measure of the relative accuracy of the lactation record, must be at least 95 for protein yield for lactations terminated after 305 days in milk. Lactations terminating between 240 and 305 days in milk require the lactation rating for protein yield to be at least 90.
4. A projected lactation record will only become publishable when the animal has a test past 60 days in milk.

Official Published Index Requirements in Canada

Genetic Indexes for females are calculated using testday records between 5 and 305 days in milk (DIM) from first, second and third lactations where the calving age is between 18 and 63 months. All classifications from first lactation are included in conformation indexes. To have an Official Domestic LPI published both the production and conformation components must both meet publishable requirements.

Herd Requirements

Production only:

1. At least 50 percent of first lactation animals must be uniquely identified.
2. Meters must be verified for accuracy annually and must not exceed 15 months between verification.
3. Herds should be tested at intervals of 50 days or less and minimally alternate between supervised tests.

Individual Animal Requirements

Production:

1. Animals must have a verified pedigree registered in a Breed Association Herdbook with an identified sire recorded.
2. Individual test intervals can be up to 75 days may occur, however animals on a 10 test alternating AM/PM or alternating supervised/unsupervised testing must not exceed an average test interval of 50-days. Whereas the maximum average test interval is 60-days for herds on a complete 24-hour supervised program.
3. Animals must have at least two usable supervised tests with protein analysis, of which minimally one must be after 60 days in milk.
4. Reliability for a production index must be greater than or equal to 30%.

Conformation:

1. Animals must have a first lactation classification, including reclassifications in first lactation from the Canadian Multi-Breed Classification program.
2. Reliability for conformation indexes must be 30% or greater.

Animals failing these requirements or in herds failing these requirements will receive a management index on their Genetic Herd Inventory Report distributed by the respective DHI organization on behalf of CDN. Animals with a management index will have their Parent Average (PA) published on the CDN web site and most Breed Association web sites.