

HISTORY OF IDF MILKING MACHINE GROUP FROM 1993

A short survey by Terje Alfnes, 22.12.2004

The autumn 2004 a chronicle of the work in Nordic Dairy Associations Committee for Milk Quality Issues was fulfilled, which was founded in 1967 primary to work out Nordic recommendations for milking machines (first edition printed in 1971). In the protocols we found that this Nordic group already in 1984 started a process to establish a new permanent IDF milking machine group. The main reason was to fill the gap of systematic continuous international contact within this topic between the working periods on new/revised ISO standards.

At the first official meeting for revising the first edition of the ISO standards for milking machine in 1989, nearly everybody declared that they followed the existing standards. The following work showed however, that there seemed to be nearly as many different editions of these ISO standards as there was delegates.

The "ISO-people" with some supplements took over a IDF sleeping group called B6 and was called for the first meeting in Brussels 30.04.1993 with Eric Hillerton, Great Britain acting as chairman. In 1996 the group was moved from Commission B (Technology & Engineering) to Commission A (Production, Hygiene & Quality of milk) and became group A32. Morten Dam Rasmussen, Denmark was elected as chairman at the second meeting this year.

With the new IDF structure from 1999 milking machines became one of the topics in Standing Committee on Farm Management (SCFM), where the main work formally should be done in ad hoc Action Teams. But because the milking machines dominating activity in SCFM, the standing committee meetings to a great extent was used for milking machine discussions. Finally, in 2004 the structure was modified and the milking machine became a permanent Action Team, that shall have its first meeting in January 2005. Douglas J. Reinemann, USA replaced Rasmussen as chairman from 2003.

The report from the second meeting in 1993 stated for the future meetings:

"It was considered that two day meetings were necessary to make significant progress and that practical content was necessary. It is anticipated that there will be an annual meeting and that substantial business be conducted by post and electronic communication. The next meeting was provisionally agreed for May 18-19, 1994 in Ås, Norway at the invitation of Mr. Alfnes who will demonstrate advances in system testing and instrumentation. Future meetings will take place at laboratories of group members."

This "practical content" of the meetings has been followed as far as possible for the whole period. More meetings have been held in connections with international seminars and congresses. And as far as the time has allowed it, research results have been presented and discussed as a part of the meetings.

In 1999 it was decided to offer by e-mail some information from the IDF work of milking machines, and the IDF milking machine information was established. The numbers of mails have varied from 2 -7 per year, totally 25 for the period 1999 - 2004. The items have mainly been reports of what has been going on in the IDF group, and in the later on established groups for new ISO standard for Automatic milking installation (AMI) and revision of the second version of the existing ISO standards for milking machines. Terje Alfnes, Norway has been editor for this mailing service from the beginning, but from 01.01.2005 Douglas J. Reinemann, USA will be the editor. At the end of 2004 we have 68 addresses for this mail offer free of charge.