

**Background to the warning levels listed in Farm Guideline 13**

Background	Factor	Warning level	
Technote 11.2	Bulk milk	Average for past six months above 250,000 cells/mL OR More than five consecutive 10-day periods above premium threshold (as per table on next page).	Herds with BMCC above this level would not receive premium payments for most of the lactation
Technote 4	Clinical case rate (in herds that do not routinely use forestripping)	More than five clinical cases per 100 cows in the first month of lactation OR More than two clinical cases per 100 cows in subsequent months of lactation.	This clinical case rate has been observed in 'problem' herds
Technote 5	Cultures	The presence of <i>Strep agalactiae</i> .	<i>Strep agalactiae</i> is highly infectious and, if it is present on the farm, stringent milking hygiene is required to avoid an explosive outbreak
Technote 12.3	Individual Cow Cell Counts	More than 1% extra cows and heifers have peak cell counts over 250,000 cells/mL each month.	This estimate is an indicator of the spread of infection, especially in seasonally calving herds
Technote 9.1	Teat condition	Is unacceptable and does not improve three weeks after changes are made to machines or disinfectant mix.	Teat condition reflects the quality of milking management and the dairy system

Advisers should emphasise to clients that the warning levels are a means of identifying when problems exist and should NOT be used as mastitis control program targets.

