

**BactoCount IBC and BactoCount IBCm were recognized as accepted methods in the US at the 36th National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS).**

The 2017 Conference was held May 12-17 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

NCIMS is a United States non-profit organization whose goal is "To Assure the Safest Possible Milk Supply for All the People".

The Conference is made up of a wide array of dairy industry professionals: inspectors, auditors, state and FDA regulators, dairy farmers, milk cooperative staff, milk haulers, processing plant personnel, processing equipment manufacturers, laboratory/test equipment manufacturers, academic researchers/advisers, and representatives from dairy trade associations.

NCIMS is a voluntary organization directed and controlled by the member states. Collaboratively the FDA and NCIMS develops a cooperative federal-state program (IMS Program) to insure the sanitary quality of milk shipped interstate. The IMS Program is operated by the states with technical, scientific and inspection support by the FDA.

NCIMS meets biennially in odd-numbered years to consider changes, additions, deletions and modifications to the IMS regulations. The main document in the IMS regulations is the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO): an ordinance regulating the production, transportation, processing, handling, sampling, examination, labeling, and sale of Grade "A" milk and milk products. Once a method is accepted by NCIMS, it will be included in the PMO and can be used by the dairy industry in full compliance with the IMS regulations. We are pleased to report that this acceptance was obtained for the BactoCount IBC/IBCm at the 2017 NCIMS conference.

