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Bureau
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Mesures



Accurate Milk Metering to Support Ireland's Dairy Industry

NSAI provides legal metrology oversight to a private industry verifier that ensures all milk tankers deliver an accurate amount of product from suppliers

*National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Legal Metrology Division
Ireland (IE)*



The Challenge

Most of those who see the many milk tankers traversing the roads of Ireland probably have not stopped to consider how much milk they contain. For farmers and dairies, however, this knowledge is vital. Accurate measurement of milk in the tanker is crucial to sustaining this vital industry within Ireland's national economy.

The Legal Metrology Division of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is responsible for ensuring that measuring instruments used are accurate. The NSAI also operates an authorizing scheme that allows private, third-party operators to perform measuring instrument verifications. As an authorized verifier for milk meters, Hickey Metering plays a vital role in NSAI Legal Metrology's verification and compliance service. It aims to ensure fair and equitable transactions between consumers and the trade, thereby providing confidence in the Irish dairy sector. Each time a milk tanker collects this product from a dairy supplier, it must be measured and recorded accurately. Milk meters used for trade in Ireland must comply with the EU Measuring Instruments Directive (the MID) 2014/32/EU, as well as the Irish national implementing regulations, which are S.I. No. 323 of 2008 (as amended).

The Solution

Hickey Metering became an authorized verifier for the NSAI in 2012, following many years of working directly in the dairy industry, installing and maintaining milk meter systems. It is common for dairies to request direct verification of their milk metering systems. Hickey Metering then routes technicians on-site to check each milk tank, rectify any issues, certify the milk meter's performance, and seal the system. Legal Metrology oversees and controls the national verification scheme for milk meters and uses a centralized information and management system to ensure that verification records and fleet information are consistently and accurately managed across the country.

A Quantifiable Impact

Due to the need for more efficient planning and improved equipment tracking, Hickey Metering has upgraded its milk meter measuring equipment to include a handheld GPS/GSM-connected unit for data collection and entry. This device records GPS coordinates for each milk collection point, along with the time, date, and quantity collected for each individual milk tanker. Technicians can use these devices to transmit metering data to Legal Metrology in real time, ensuring the consistency and accuracy of verification records and activities for every

milk tanker operating in the Irish dairy industry within Legal Metrology's centralized information and management system.

The private-public partnership between Hickey Metering and NSAI, Legal Metrology Division, has provided confidence to both the national dairy industry and consumers who rely on this part of their food supply. As attested by Conor Hickey, Managing Director of Hickey Metering,

"[Consumers] can see that if we are working on legal metrology [with] the NSAI, we must be operating to a high standard. It really makes our standing in the industry stronger."

Acknowledgment. This case study is based on a prior interview with Conor Hickey of Hickey Metering.¹

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¹ NSAI Interview Focus. https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/general/NSAI_Interview_Focus_-_Hickey.pdf