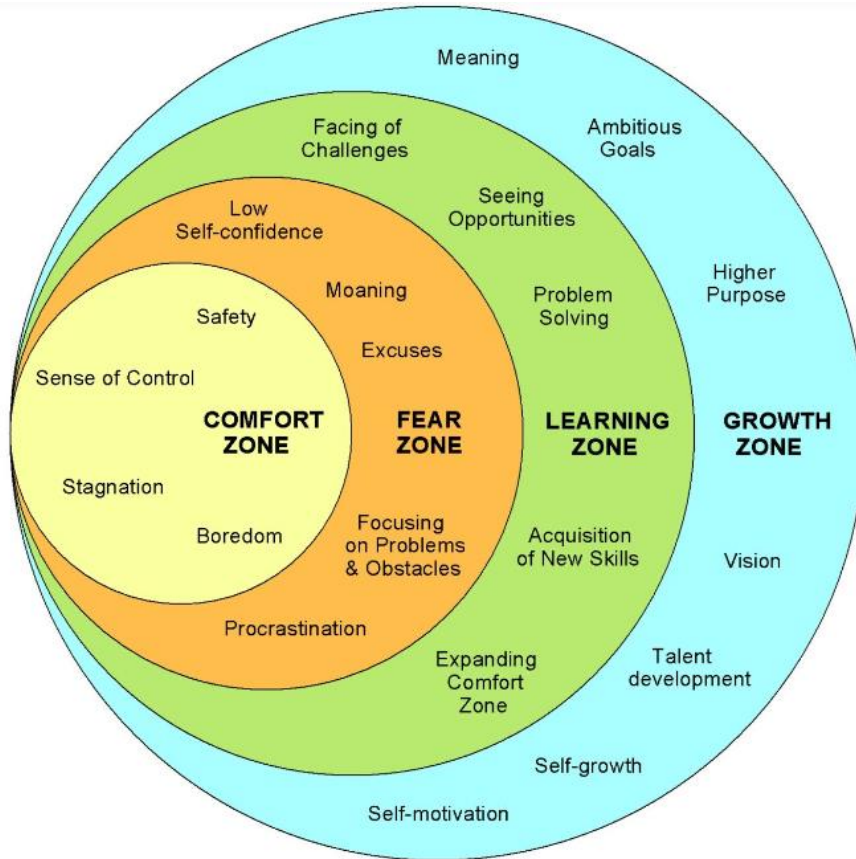
The background features a blurred image of a petri dish containing a yellowish-green agar medium. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous water droplets of various sizes, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of depth and a clean, scientific atmosphere. The overall color palette is dominated by soft blues, greys, and the natural colors of the petri dish and droplets.

THE “FEAR FACTOR” IN MICROBIOLOGICAL AUTOMATED TEST METHODS

DSA – WEBINAR – 24 MAY 2023

RIAN LOMBARD



LITERATURE

Bulletin 511 - Guidance on the application of conversion equations for determination of microbiological quality of raw milk

ISO 21187/IDF 196 – Milk – Quantitative determination of microbiological quality - Guidance for establishing and verifying a conversion relationship between results of an alternative method and anchor method results



INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD

ISO
21187
IDF 196

Second edition
2021-02



Historic methods – SPC → CFU

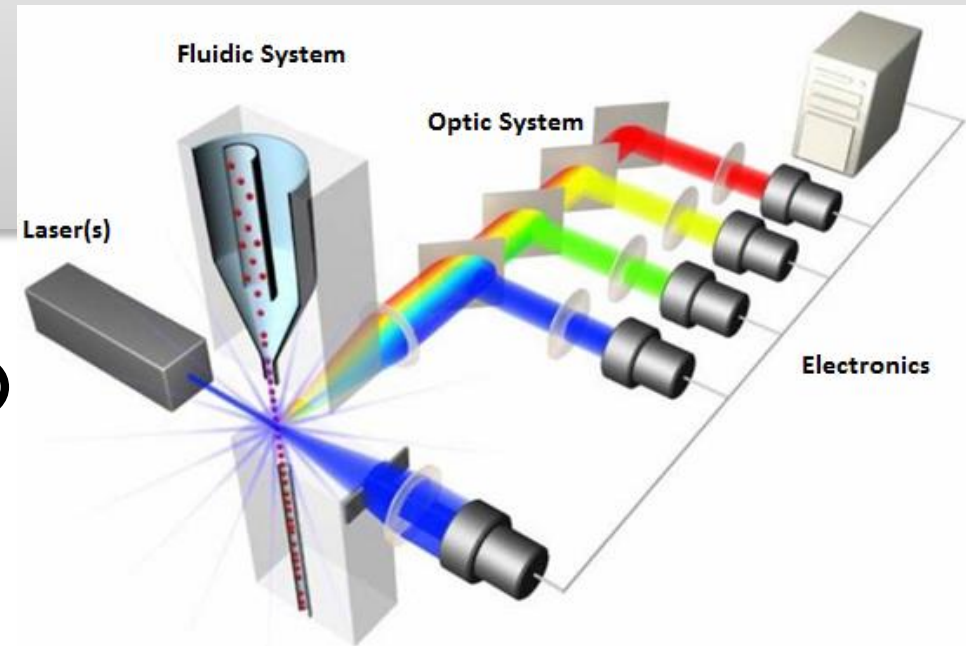
Today mostly automated Flow Cytometry → TBC

Different methods – NOT equivalent

Conversion Factor ?? – TBC into CFU



BACKGROUND



INTRODUCTION

Hygienic measures of raw milk

Milk grading schemes

Incentives or penalties

Microbiological quality one of key parameters

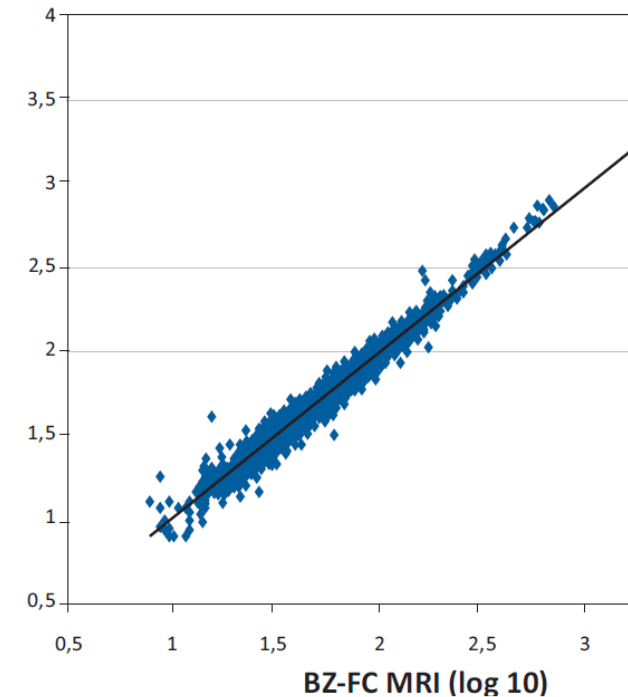
Also legal requirements (limit in cfu)

FC – Industry standard today

2 Manufactures

Challenge to transform from alternative method to anchor method

BZ-FC LKV Kiel (log 10)








METHODS APPLIED FOR TBC

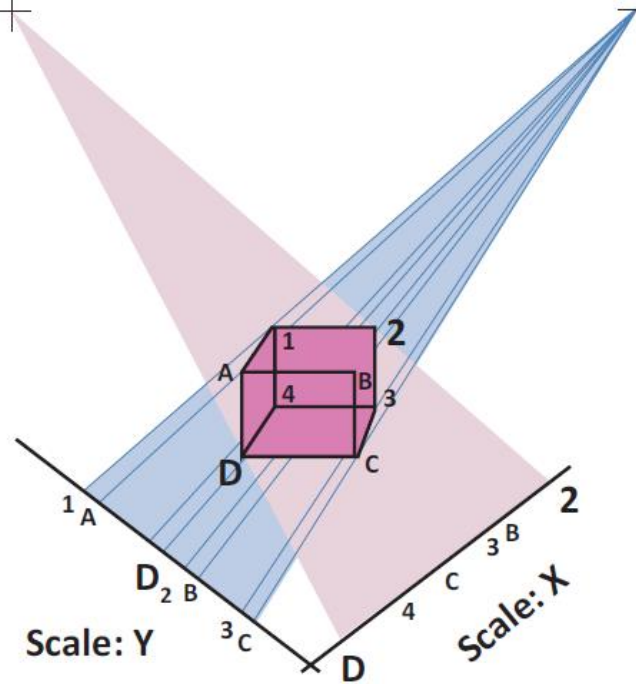
TBC Routine testing: FC, SPC or Aerobic Plate count (am or rm)

Plate count Methods:

- Several versions (Petrifilm)
- 30 °C for 72 h or 35 °C for 48 h
- Standardized growth medium
-  Simple & Low cost
-  Poor precision, repeatability & reproducibility, one temperature

Flow cytometry

- Interference components
 - Fluorescent marker
 - Stain DNA & RNA
 - Detector measure light pulses
 - IBC
 - Perform better than SPC methods
- 



CONVERSION INTERLINKING 2 METHODS

Different measurands

Plate count rather anchor method

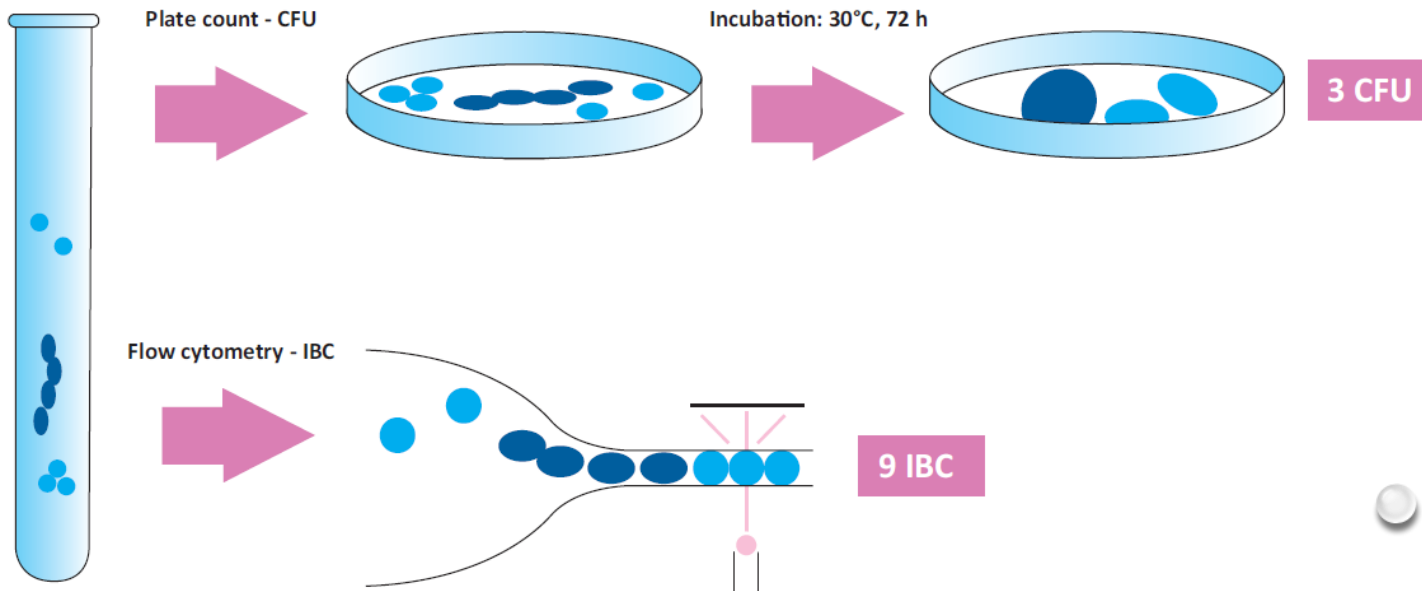
CFU vs IBC

Calibration not possible for Microbial analysis

Conversion developed

Conversion relationship influenced by:

- Milk flora growth phase
- Milk storage time
- Preservation
- Animal species
- High Fat & Protein
- Seasonal variations
- Variations in production system
- Type of bacteria
- SSC
- SPC method itself



Number of test samples for linear regression

A.1 For comparison of an estimated and a hypothetical regression coefficient, the test formula for a two-tailed test with probability $(1 - \alpha)$ is shown by [Formula \(A.1\)](#):

$$t = \frac{|b_{yx} - \beta_{yx}|}{s_{byx}} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where

t is $t_{(n-1, 1-\alpha/2)}$, which is the numerical value of the Student's t -distribution at its $(1 - \alpha)$ probability level;

b_{yx} is the estimated regression coefficient;

β_{yx} is the hypothetical regression coefficient;

s_{byx} is $s_{yx}/s_x (n-1)^{0.5}$;

n is the number of data pairs.

Replacing $|b_{yx} - \beta_{yx}|$ by d results in [Formula \(A.2\)](#):

$$t = d \sqrt{[s_{yx}/s_x (n-1)^{0.5}]} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

This can be rewritten as [Formula \(A.3\)](#):

$$n = t^2 (s_{yx}^2 / s_x^2) / d^2 + 1 \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Since s_{yx}^2 can be approximated by $s_y^2 - b_{yx}^2 \cdot s_x^2$ with higher values of n , [Formula \(A.3\)](#) may also be written as [Formula \(A.4\)](#):

$$n = t^2 (s_y^2 / s_x^2 - b_{yx}^2) / d^2 + 1 \quad (\text{A.4})$$

where

s_y is the standard deviation of the y -values;

s_x is the standard deviation of the x -values.

THE CONVERSION

ISO 21187:2021 / IDF 196:2021

HUGE NUMBER OF DATA

COMPLICATED DATA INTERPRETATION

NUMBER OF HIGH LEVEL CALCULATIONS

A.3 An alternative way has been suggested (see Reference [7]), introducing the relative error δ , of the estimate for the slope of the regression, as shown by [Formula \(A.5\)](#):

$$\delta = \frac{|b_{yx} - \beta_{yx}|}{\beta_{yx}} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

[Formula \(A.1\)](#) is transformed to [Formula \(A.6\)](#):

$$t = \frac{|b_{yx} - \beta_{yx}|}{[s_y^2 (1-r^2) / (n-1) s_x^2]^{0.5}} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

where r is equal to $b_{yx} (s_x / s_y)$.

Extending [Formula \(A.6\)](#) results in [Formula \(A.7\)](#):

$$t = \left(\frac{|b_{yx} - \beta_{yx}|}{\beta_{yx}} \right) / \left\{ \left[\frac{s_y^2 (1-r^2)}{(n-1) s_x^2} \right]^{0.5} / \beta_{yx} \right\} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

On introducing [Formula \(A.5\)](#), [Formula \(A.7\)](#) becomes [Formula \(A.8\)](#):

$$t = \delta / \left\{ \left[\frac{s_y^2 (1-r^2)}{(n-1) s_x^2} \right]^{0.5} \cdot s_x \right\} / r \cdot s_y \quad (\text{A.8})$$

or [Formula \(A.9\)](#):

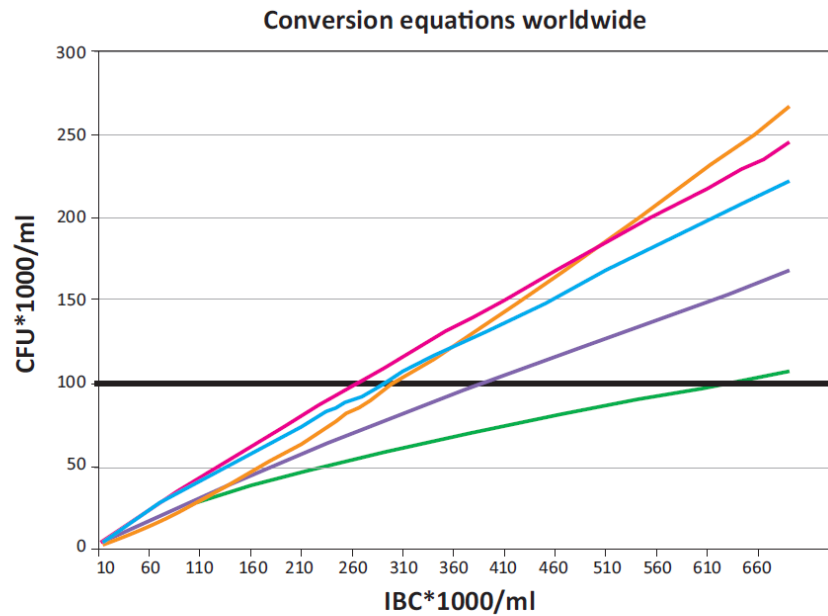
$$t = \delta / \left[(1-r^2) / (n-1) r^2 \right]^{0.5} \quad (\text{A.9})$$

Resolving n results in [Formula \(A.10\)](#):

$$n = \left[t^2 (1-r^2) / (\delta^2 \cdot r^2) \right] + 1 \quad (\text{A.10})$$

CONVERSION FACTOR TODAY

- DIFFICULT TO STANDARDIZE
- COSTLY TO DEVELOP & MAINTAIN
- SOME DIFFERENCES IN THE EQUATIONS



IBC/ml	CFU/ml Applying the Danish conversion	CFU/ml Applying conversion factors from other regions
25 000	6 000	3–11 000
50 000	12 000	7–22 000
100 000	24 000	13–41 000
200 000	46 000	27–78 000
450 000	101 000	69–181 000
750 000	165 000	104–263 000

Figure 7. Conversion equations from some European countries. The example shows that routine results ranging from 260 000 to 650 000 IBC/mL correspond to 100 000 Estimated CFU/mL (black line), depending on the applied conversion equation. Source: C Baumgartner, MPR Bayern, DE.

3 SOLUTIONS POSSIBLE

1. Conversion with lab specific equations

2. National or global conversion

3. Avoid the conversion

	Laboratory specific conversion	Harmonized national conversion	No conversion
Compliance with most legal limits	+++	+++	+
Compliance with present farmer settlement models	+++	+++	+
Legal disputes over converted or non-converted results Legal disputes over microbiology of perishable products are generally complicated, due to bacterial growth and timing	+	+	+++ Estimated CFUs may be very different from actual CFUs, see Figure 4
Good tool for improving and maintenance of on-farm hygiene	++	++	++
Results independent of analyzing laboratory	+	+++	+++
Simplicity and cost of development and maintenance	+	++	+++
Known by stakeholders	+++	+++	+

THANK YOU

