

Charm Sciences is putting producers at risk.

As we communicated earlier, Charm is promoting the use of an adapter that supposedly enables producers to run Charm tests on the IDEXX SNAP[®] Heater Block. Any time a critical piece of equipment is adapted to perform a task, there should be serious cause for concern. This concern prompted IDEXX to evaluate Charm tests when run on the SNAP[®] Heater Block. The evaluation raised some alarming issues.

First, the SNAP[®] Heater Block operates at a much lower temperature and over a wider temperature range than required for the Charm test. The SNAP[®] Heater Block maintains an incubation temperature of $45 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$. According to charm package inserts, Charm SLs[™] appropriate incubation temperature is $56 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, and Charm SL6's[™] is $45 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$. **It was found that the SNAP[®] Heater Block with the Charm Heat Block Adapter would not reach and/or maintain the proper temperature to run Charm tests.** The IDEXX Dairy Technical Support Team has fielded calls from producers who are attempting to use the SNAP[®] Heater Block with the Charm Adapter. These producers have experienced the same temperature issues that we have seen in our evaluation.

In addition, our evaluation found that Charm tests become less sensitive when run at the incorrect temperature on the SNAP[®] Heater Block with the Charm Adapter. **This decreased sensitivity does not mean that a producer will miss violative samples, but a producer may not catch what the plant catches.** For example, IDEXX spiked milk samples with 10 ppb cephalixin and ran multiple Charm tests on the Charm Heater and the SNAP[®] Heater Block with the Charm Adapter. 100% of the Charm tests run on the Charm Heater tested positive, where only 80% of the Charm Tests that were run on the SNAP[®] Heater Block with the Charm Adapter tested positive. At this subviolative cephalixin level, farmers could miss 20% of what the plant catches, putting them at a huge risk.

Regardless of what type of test a producer is running, they should always refer to the manufacturer's package insert for the correct incubation temperature and double check that the heater block being used is running within the specified temperature range. Remember, laboratories conducting drug residue tests on milk to be received for processing must adhere to strict testing guidelines—regardless of which test kit is being used.

According to Charm, they only promote this adapter for farm use. Why is the Charm Heat Block Adapter good enough for producers but not laboratories? Regulated laboratories require validated procedures! Please keep this in mind when talking with your producers, and remind them that SNAP[®] Tests are the only tests validated for use with the SNAP[®] Heater Block.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. For further assistance, please contact IDEXX Dairy Technical Support at 1-800-321-0207, option 2, or call me at 1-704-618-0704.

Sincerely,

Jim Yeaman

North American Sales Manager