Dairy CIP Operator

Dairy processing

Job title	Dairy CIP Operator
Department	Dairy processing
Reports to	Shift Supervisor
Direct reports	None
Location	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*
Contract type	*[Permanent / fixed-term / other]*
Salary and benefits	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*

Job purpose

Runs clean-in-place (CIP) systems that clean tanks, pipes and processing equipment without taking them apart. Checks chemical strength and temperature, keeps CIP records and deals with failed cleans so that equipment is safe to use for production.

Key responsibilities

Running CIP cycles

- Set up and start CIP cycles for tanks, lines, pasteurisers and other equipment using SOPs
- Check that the right circuit is connected and that valves and pipe bends are in the correct position
- Confirm that equipment is empty of product before cleaning starts
- Watch each cycle on the control screen and act quickly on alarms

Chemical strength and temperature

- Check caustic and acid strength using titration or conductivity readings
- Check that wash temperatures, flows and times meet the set limits
- Top up and change chemical tanks safely, using the correct PPE
- Tell the supervisor when chemical stock is running low

Records and verification

- Record every CIP cycle accurately, including times, temperatures and chemical strengths
- Check CIP charts or system records and sign off each clean
- Do or help with checks after cleaning, such as visual checks, swabs or final rinse tests
- Release clean equipment to production only when all checks pass
- Keep CIP records complete and ready for audits

Failed cleans and faults

- Stop and repeat any clean that fails or does not reach its limits
- Hold equipment back from production until it passes a full clean
- Report failed cleans to the Shift Supervisor and record the action taken

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- Report faulty pumps, valves, spray devices or sensors to maintenance

Health and safety

- Follow lock-out rules and safe ways of working at all times
- Handle hot liquids and strong chemicals safely
- Report spills, leaks, accidents and near misses straight away

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Basic reading, writing and number skills, including simple measurements
- Ability to follow written procedures exactly
- Basic computer skills, for example using a control screen
- Willingness to learn chemical testing and safe chemical handling
- Willingness to work shifts, including nights and weekends

Desirable

- Basic food hygiene certificate or similar
- Experience running CIP systems in a dairy, drinks or food plant
- Experience doing titration or other simple chemical tests
- Training in chemical safety

Skills and attributes

- Attention to detail
- Careful record keeping
- Following procedures exactly, with no shortcuts
- Problem solving when a clean fails
- Clear communication at shift handover
- Reliability and good timekeeping

Measures of success

- All CIP cycles completed on time and to plan
- No product contamination linked to cleaning
- Complete and accurate CIP records
- Every failed clean reported and repeated
- Chemical use within target
- No chemical incidents or injuries

Working conditions and safety

Shift work on a production site, which may include nights and weekends. The work is in wet, warm and noisy areas near hot liquids and cleaning chemicals, and involves standing, walking and some lifting; PPE and training are provided.

- Follow health and safety rules and safe systems of work, and wear the correct PPE
- Follow food safety, hygiene, HACCP and quality procedures at all times
- Report hazards, accidents, near misses and concerns promptly

This job description outlines the main duties of the role. It is not a complete list, and the employer may update it as the business changes, in consultation with the jobholder.

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