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(54) Title: A CONSTRUCTION FOR AUTOMATICALLY MILKING ANIMALS

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A construction for automatically milking animals is provided with a milking robot and a computer which is capable of being connected with a number of measuring instruments which are related to a number of functions of the construction. A monitoring program for said functions is installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer is suitable for determining, on the basis of a comparison of data from one or more of the measuring instruments with reference data related to said functions, a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated fault in one or more of said functions. The early determination of a diagnosis enables to warn a user and/or a service mechanic, who is then able to take in time the possibly required measures to avoid the anticipated malfunction.



ABSTRACT

A CONSTRUCTION FOR AUTOMATICALLY MILKING ANIMALS

5 A construction for automatically milking animals is
provided with a milking robot and a computer which is capable
of being connected with a number of measuring instruments
which are related to a number of functions of the
construction. A monitoring program for said functions is
10 installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer
is suitable for determining, on the basis of a comparison of
data from one or more of the measuring instruments with
reference data related to said functions, a diagnosis in
relation to an anticipated fault in one or more of said
15 functions. The early determination of a diagnosis enables to
warn a user and/or a service mechanic, who is then able to
take in time the possibly required measures to avoid the
anticipated malfunction.

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A CONSTRUCTION FOR AUTOMATICALLY MILKING ANIMALS

The invention relates to a construction for automatically milking animals.

Such a construction is known. Patent EP-A-0 576 086 describes a construction in which malfunctions occurred are reported with the aid of a control system. The disadvantage of such a construction is i.a. that it is only reported that a particular component does not function anymore. Patent WO-99/31967 discloses a construction in which a cumulative value in relation to the useful life of a component is updated. When a threshold value has been reached, there is generated a signal indicating that the component has to be replaced. The disadvantage of such a construction is i.a. that the actual wear is not taken into account, so that components having a great divergence in their anticipated life are often replaced unnecessarily quickly.

The invention aims at improving and further automating such a construction.

An aspect of the invention relates to a construction for automatically milking animals, said construction being provided with a milking robot and a computer which is capable of being connected with a number of measuring instruments which are related to a number of functions of the construction, wherein a monitoring program for said functions is installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer is suitable for determining, on the basis of a comparison of data from one or more of the measuring instruments with reference data related to said functions, a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated fault in one or more of said functions.

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The early determination of a diagnosis enables to warn a user and/or a service mechanic, who are/is then able to take in time the possibly required measures to avoid the anticipated malfunction. This enhances the reliability of the construction. Moreover it may appear that such measures will only be required at a later point of time, which is cost-saving.

With reference to the following description the invention will now be further elucidated.

10 Constructions for automatically milking animals, such as cows, by means of a milking robot are known per se. The milking robot is provided with means for automatically connecting teat cups to the teats of an animal to be milked. Said means comprise e.g. a robot arm and a sensor for

detecting the position of the teats of the animal to be milked relative to the teat cups. There are further provided control means and e.g. cleaning means, a feeding device, an animal identification system and a milk reservoir. The control means may comprise a computer which is connected or capable of being connected with a number of measuring instruments (such as sensors) which are related to a number of functions of the construction, such as e.g. the milking process or parts thereof, the pre-treatment of an animal to be milked, the cleaning of the teats of an animal to be milked, the cleaning of the teat cups, the feeding of an animal to be milked, the measurement of the quantity of milk yielded.

A monitoring program for said functions is programmed or installed in the computer. The computer disposes of reference data which are related to said functions. The measuring instruments which are also related to said functions supply data to the computer. With the aid of the monitoring program the computer is suitable for determining, on the basis of a comparison of the data from one or more of the measuring instruments with the reference data, a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated fault in one or more of said functions. The monitoring program attributes a diagnosis for an anticipated malfunction to certain combinations of measurement data and reference data, as will be elucidated hereinafter. On the basis of the diagnosis it is possible to intervene before the malfunction actually occurs.

The computer may be programmed such that the diagnosis comprises the anticipated nature of the malfunction, the anticipated point of time or an anticipated time interval for the malfunction. The computer is preferably programmed such that the diagnosis comprises a warning to a user and/or a service mechanic. In this manner it is achieved that it is checked in time (before the malfunction actually

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occurs) whether action has to be taken in relation to a particular function or a particular component. In obvious cases the diagnosis may also comprise a concrete instruction to the user and/or the service mechanic in order to prevent
5 the anticipated malfunction. Such an instruction may comprise an action to be taken by the user and/or the service mechanic and a time indication for the action to be taken.

In an embodiment of the invention the diagnosis comprises an indication to the user and/or the
10 service mechanic to check the condition of a component which is related to the anticipated malfunction and to repair and/or to replace said component if necessary. Thus it is possible to establish in an early stage whether the actual wear or abnormality of the component requires to repair or to
15 replace the relevant component at once. When it appears that for example the actually occurred wear is smaller than would have been anticipated on the basis of the age or the use of the component, it is possible to decide still to continue to use the relevant component during a certain time. This is
20 cost-saving, of course. The monitoring program supplies an appropriate warning in an early stage so that malfunctions in the construction can be avoided.

The computer may be suitable for selecting the diagnosis out of an available collection of diagnoses related
25 to said functions. A great number of diagnoses of possible malfunctions may be stored in the computer. The collection of diagnoses may then at least partially depend on the size of the herd of animals to be milked. With a small herd there may occur partially other problems leading to malfunctions than
30 with a large herd. In this manner the number of animals that will make use of the construction can be taken into account already at the installation of the construction.

The construction can be provided with means enabling to adapt and/or to extend the available collection
35 of diagnoses. The construction may thus be adapted to the

specific needs and circumstances of the farm where the construction is used. With some farms there may occur certain malfunctions that hardly play a part with other farms. The means may be suitable for adapting diagnoses or adding new
5 diagnoses on the basis of the patterns of data from the measuring instruments established during the use of the construction. When it appears for example that during the failure-free use of a certain component there is continuously generated a malfunction diagnosis, then the computer
10 concludes that this diagnosis is not correct. In this manner the disadvantageous results of incorrect reference data can be corrected automatically. It is also possible to add a corresponding, improved diagnosis when a particular fault in a particular function occurs a number of times earlier than
15 would have been expected on the basis of the existing diagnoses. The collection of diagnoses is thus automatically adapted to the local circumstances of the construction.

The means may be suitable for adapting and/or extending the available collection of diagnoses in dependence
20 of the size of the herd of animals to be milked and/or the (possibly measured) intensity with which the construction is used. The fact is that these parameters may strongly influence the nature and the frequency of anticipated malfunctions. Of course, there are also other influences,
25 such as e.g. the degree of contamination of the environment in which the construction is used. In a clean shed there will occur fewer problems than in a strongly contaminated one.

The construction is suitable for indicating, for example visually and/or acoustically, the diagnosis
30 determined by the computer, or at least the instruction pertaining thereto.

The measuring instruments may comprise sensors, clocks and/or counters. There may for example be provided a sound sensor by means of which it is possible to establish
35 sounds that deviate from reference patterns. On the basis of

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the measurements it is possible for example to generate a diagnosis having for instruction "check vacuum pump" or "replace pulsator within 24 hours". It is also possible to use sensors for measuring the electricity consumption of certain components, the air consumption, the water consumption, the milk discharge, the feed supply, the conductivity of cleaning liquid, the temperature in the milk cooling tank, the pulsation pattern in the teat cups, etc. With the aid of time sensors or clocks it is possible to determine for example (cumulative) consumption times of components, connection times of the teat cups, time required for building up vacuum, etc. By means of counting sensors or counters it is possible for example to determine the number of pulsations of a pulsator or the number of times a component is used.

The reference data may comprise an interval for a measured value to be determined by means of one or more measuring instruments. The monitoring program selects for example the diagnosis "sound level too high; check vacuum pump" when the measured sound level of a vacuum pump is above 70 decibel during at least 30 seconds. The reference data may also comprise an anticipated life or an anticipated failure-free useful life for a function-related component of the construction. When the point of time is reached at which e.g. 90% of the useful life of a component has elapsed, the instruction may be "check within 6 hours condition of component and determine whether it must be replaced; if not, give new time interval for further use".

The computer can be suitable for determining in a parallel manner more than one diagnosis and for attributing an urgency to each diagnosis. The construction is then capable of indicating the diagnoses determined or at least the instructions pertaining thereto in order of urgency. This enhances the user-friendliness of the construction.

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The construction may comprise a number of components known per se, such as e.g. coils and motors for driving and controlling other components, a compressor, a vacuum pump and an air system connected therewith with air
5 lines and valves, a pulsator of which e.g. pulsation speed and pulsation ratio are adjustable, a cleaning system with a water pump, a water tank with a three-way-valve and liquid lines, teat cups with a liner, a sucking aperture, a tilting mechanism and a cord, milk lines, milk meters, milk filters,
10 a milk glass with a float, a milk tank with a contents meter, a feeding system with a feeding trough, a feed auger and a weighing cell, a box floor with a weighing device and weighing cells, conductivity sensors, cleaning means with lye and/or acid, milk separation means, a laser measuring system
15 for determining the teat positions with a laser window, lifting cylinders for the teat cups, stepper motors and other drive mechanisms for having certain movements performed by certain components, milk flow sensors, milk pulsation tubes with tube shut-off valves, a milk cooling tank with a cooling
20 system and a cleaning system, an entrance and an exit with a gate, an animal identification system, etc.

The computer may for example be programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish an increasing electricity consumption, there is determined a
25 diagnosis implying "check rinsing and/or motors". Therefore, the diagnosis needs not to contain literally the words "check rinsing and/or motors", but may also indicate that a problem with rinsing and/or motors may be anticipated.

In some embodiments, the invention further relates to a construction for
30 automatically milking animals, said construction being provided with a milking robot and a computer, which computer is capable of being connected with a number of measuring instruments which are related to a number of condition

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parameters of an animal to be milked. According to some embodiments of the invention a monitoring program for said parameters is installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer is suitable for determining, on the basis of a comparison of
5 data from one or more of the measuring instruments with reference data related to said parameters, a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated undesired deviation in one or more of said parameters. Again the early determination of a diagnosis enables to warn a user and/or a veterinarian, who
10 are/is then able to take in time the possibly required measures to avoid the anticipated undesired deviation.

The computer may further be suitable for continuously adapting the reference data on the basis of measured quantities. The computer may also be suitable for
15 automatically generating the reference data. The reference data may depend on the herd of animals to be milked and/or on the intensity with which the construction is used.

The construction can be provided with means for transmitting the diagnosis determined by the computer by
20 telephone and/or as SMS-message to a user and/or a service mechanic. In this manner the user and/or the service mechanic are/is able to react promptly.

The computer may be programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a slowly starting
25 milk flow profile, there is determined a diagnosis implying "prolong the pre-treatment".

Another aspect of the invention relates to a construction for automatically milking animals, said construction being provided with a milking robot and a computer, said computer being connectable with a number of measuring instruments which are
30 related to a number of condition parameters of an animal to be milked, wherein a monitoring program for said parameters is installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer is suitable for determining a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated undesired deviation in one or more of said parameters on the basis of a comparison of data from one or more of the measuring instruments with reference data related to said parameters.

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CLAIMS:

1. A construction for automatically milking animals, said construction being provided with a milking robot and a computer which is capable of being connected with a number
5 of measuring instruments which are related to a number of functions of the construction, wherein a monitoring program for said functions is installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer is suitable for determining, on the basis of a comparison of data from one or more of the
10 measuring instruments with reference data related to said functions, a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated fault in one or more of said functions.
2. A construction as claimed in claim 1, wherein the computer is programmed such that the diagnosis comprises an
15 anticipated nature of the malfunction.
3. A construction as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the computer is programmed such that the diagnosis comprises an anticipated point of time or an anticipated time interval for the malfunction.
- 20 4. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the computer is programmed such that the diagnosis comprises a warning to a user and/or a service mechanic.
5. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
25 to 3, wherein the computer is programmed such that the diagnosis comprises an instruction to avoid the anticipated malfunction.
6. A construction as claimed in claim 5, wherein the instruction comprises an action to be taken by a user and/or
30 a service mechanic.

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7. A construction as claimed in claim 4 or 6, wherein the diagnosis comprises an indication to the user and/or the service mechanic to check a condition of a component related to the anticipated malfunction and to repair and/or to
5 replace said component if necessary.

8. A construction as claimed in claim 6, wherein the instruction comprises a time indication for the action to be taken.

9. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
10 to 8, wherein the computer is suitable for selecting the diagnosis out of an available collection of diagnoses related to said functions.

10. A construction as claimed in claim 9, wherein the collection of diagnoses depends at least partially on a size
15 of a herd of animals to be milked.

11. A construction as claimed in claim 10, wherein the construction is provided with means enabling to adapt and/or to extend the available collection of diagnoses.

12. A construction as claimed in claim 11, wherein the
20 means are suitable for adjusting diagnoses or adding new diagnoses on the basis of patterns of data from the measuring instruments established during the use of the construction.

13. A construction as claimed in claim 11 or 12,
25 wherein the means are suitable for adapting and/or extending the available collection of diagnoses in dependence of the size of the herd of animals to be milked and/or an intensity with which the construction is used.

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14. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the construction is suitable for indicating the established diagnosis.

15. A construction as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein
5 the construction is suitable for indicating at least the instruction pertaining to the established diagnosis.

16. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the construction is suitable for indicating visually and/or acoustically the established diagnosis or at
10 least an instruction pertaining thereto.

17. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the measuring instruments comprise at least one sensor.

18. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
15 to 17, wherein the measuring instruments comprise at least one clock.

19. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 18, wherein the measuring instruments comprise at least one counter.

20 20. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the reference data comprise an interval for a measured value to be determined by means of one or more measuring instruments.

21. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
25 to 20, wherein the reference data comprise an anticipated life or an anticipated failure-free useful life for a function-related component of the construction.

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22. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21, wherein the computer is suitable for determining in a parallel manner more than one diagnosis.

23. A construction as claimed in claim 22, wherein the
5 construction is suitable for attributing an urgency to every diagnosis.

24. A construction as claimed in claim 23, wherein the construction is suitable for indicating the determined diagnoses or at least instructions pertaining thereto in
10 order of urgency.

25. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish an increasing electricity consumption, there is determined a diagnosis
15 implying "check rinsing and/or motors".

26. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating air consumption curve, there is determined a diagnosis implying
20 "check air system and/or compressor".

27. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating water consumption curve, there is determined a diagnosis implying
25 "leakage and/or obstruction".

28. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating milk discharge to a milk tank, there is determined a diagnosis
30 implying "leakage and/or obstruction of a milk filter".

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29. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating feed supply, there is determined a diagnosis implying "leakage
5 and/or obstruction of a feed auger".

30. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating sound measurement, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check
10 vacuum pump and/or pulsator".

31. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating filling time for a water tank, there is determined a diagnosis
15 implying "insufficient water pressure and/or leakage".

32. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish failed connections of teat cups and/or a deviating weight of animals to be
20 milked, there is determined a diagnosis implying "weighing floor jammed and/or malfunction weighing cell".

33. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating signal
25 pattern of a feed weighing cell with various animals, there is determined a diagnosis implying "feeding trough jammed and/or malfunction weighing cell".

34. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
30 or more measuring instruments establish a positive drifting of a zero level of the weight of a box floor, there is

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determined a diagnosis implying "accumulation of dirt on box floor".

35. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
5 or more measuring instruments establish an increased air consumption per milking and/or per cleaning, there is determined a diagnosis implying "leaking valves".

36. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
10 or more measuring instruments establish an increased conductivity of pre-rinsing water at the end of pre-rinsing, there is determined a diagnosis implying "insufficient pre-rinsing due to too low water pressure and/or insufficient emptying by blowing of line and/or leaking three-way-valve
15 tank and/or contaminated, defective and/or drifted conductivity sensors".

37. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
20 or more measuring instruments establish an increased conductivity of main cleaning water at the end of main cleaning, there is determined a diagnosis implying "insufficient main cleaning due to too low lye/acid concentration and/or too low frequency lye/acid cleaning and/or contaminated, defective and/or drifted conductivity
25 sensors".

38. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
or more measuring instruments establish an increased conductivity of post-rinsing water at the end of post-
30 rinsing, there is determined a diagnosis implying "insufficient post-rinsing and/or contaminated, defective and/or drifted conductivity sensors".

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39. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish an automatic consecutive separation of milk from various animals, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check on the basis of separated milk whether there are malfunctions in sensors".

40. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish more movement in a weighing floor than on average, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check vacuum level of a vacuum pump and/or the condition of teat cup liners".

41. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein that the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish non-taking of feed by various animals, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check a weighing cell of a feeding trough".

42. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a decreased pumping away speed of milk from a milk glass to a milk tank, there is determined a diagnosis implying "obstruction milk filter and/or pump".

43. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviation of the centre of gravity of a box floor with the animal to be milked, there is determined a diagnosis implying "feed used up and/or feed auger and/or weighing cell feeding trough defective".

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44. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a longer connection time of teat cups than on average and more movement in a weighing floor than on average, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check feed augers and/or presence of vermin".

45. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a changed milk flow, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check pulsation adjustments; feed used up and/or feed auger and/or weighing cell feeding trough defective".

46. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish absence of vacuum on a teat cup after several attempts, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check a tilting mechanism and/or the cord of the teat cup and/or a laser window".

47. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a lower connection time with a teat cup in comparison with other teat cups, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check position of the teat cup and/or a teat cup liner".

48. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a lower average milking speed and/or a lower average milk flow, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check vacuum level and/or pulsation adjustments and/or liners of the teat cups".

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49. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a higher connection time of all teat cups, there is determined a diagnosis
5 implying "laser window contaminated and/or leakage in a lifting cylinder".

50. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating signal
10 pattern of a milk flow sensor for various animals, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check liner and/or a sucking aperture of the teat cup".

51. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
15 or more measuring instruments establish a deviating pulsation pattern for all teat cups, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check vacuum level and/or vacuum line of a pulsator".

52. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
20 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating time required for building up a vacuum, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check vacuum pump and/or leakage air".

53. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
25 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating time required for a known movement, there is determined a diagnosis implying "drive mechanism defective and/or leakage".

30 54. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one

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or more measuring instruments establish deviating data of a milk cooling tank there is determined a diagnosis implying "check cooling system and/or cleaning system milk cooling tank".

5 55. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a discrepancy between milk yield data from a milk meter and data from a contents meter of a milk tank, there is determined a
10 diagnosis implying "check milk meter and/or contents meter milk tank".

56. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a increased number
15 of stepper motor errors, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check stepper motor".

57. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a visiting frequency
20 reduced to zero of the milking robot, there is determined a diagnosis implying "animal obstructs entrance and/or exit and/or gate defective".

58. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
25 or more measuring instruments establish consecutive non-identification of a number of animals, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check animal identification system".

59. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
30 or more measuring instruments establish a deviating pulsation pattern, there is determined a diagnosis implying

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"check liner of milk pulsation tube and/or tube shut-off valves".

60. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
5 or more measuring instruments establish a discrepancy between a weight pattern of the animal to be milked during milking and a measured quantity of milk yielded, consumed feed and produced dung, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check weighing sensors".

10 61. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish an increased maximum milk flow, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check float in milk glass".

15 62. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a decreased average milk flow and a decreased maximum milk flow, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check float in milk glass".

20 63. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a longer time between a generation of a vacuum in a teat cup and the start of a milk flow from a relevant quarter in combination with a
25 shorter milking time for the relevant quarter, there is determined a diagnosis implying "insufficient sensitivity with relevant milk flow sensor".

64. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
30 or more measuring instruments establish a shorter time between a generation of a vacuum in a teat cup and the start

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of a milk flow from a relevant quarter in combination with a longer milking time for the relevant quarter, there is determined a diagnosis implying "too high sensitivity with relevant milk flow sensor".

5 65. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a longer time between a generation of a vacuum in a teat cup and a start of a relevant milk flow from left or right quarters in
10 combination with a shorter milking time for the relevant quarters, there is determined a diagnosis implying "leakage in teat cup liner and/or pulsation tube and/or defective pulsator".

66. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1
15 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish great differences between a quarters in a time between a generation of a vacuum in a teat cup and the start of a relevant milk flow, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check milk flow
20 sensors".

67. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish an increased number of unsuccessful attempts to connect teat cups, there is
25 determined a diagnosis implying "check laser measuring system".

68. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a deviating
30 production value, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check the milking robot".

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69. A construction for automatically milking animals, said construction being provided with a milking robot and a computer, said computer being connectable with a number of measuring instruments which are related to a number of
5 condition parameters of an animal to be milked, wherein a monitoring program for said parameters is installed in the computer, with the aid of which the computer is suitable for determining a diagnosis in relation to an anticipated undesired deviation in one or more of said parameters on the
10 basis of a comparison of data from one or more of the measuring instruments with reference data related to said parameters.

70. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24 or 69, wherein the computer is suitable for
15 continuously adapting the reference data on the basis of measured quantities.

71. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24 or 69, wherein the computer is suitable for automatically generating the reference data.

20 72. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 or 69, wherein the reference data depend on a herd of animals to be milked.

73. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 24 or 69, wherein the reference data depend on an
25 intensity with which the construction is used.

74. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 or 69, wherein the construction is provided with means for transmitting the diagnosis determined by the computer by telephone and/or as SMS-message to a user and/or a service
30 mechanic.

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75. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a slowly starting milk flow profile, there is determined a diagnosis implying
5 "prolong pre-treatment".

76. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a combination of increased conductivity, longer dead milking time, deviating
10 colour and volume for a particular quarter, there is determined a diagnosis implying "mastitis for said quarter".

77. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish an increased speed
15 of emptying a feeding trough for an animal, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check animal's ration".

78. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a decreased speed of
20 emptying a feeding trough for various animals, there is determined a diagnosis implying "feed decayed and/or not tasty".

79. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
25 or more measuring instruments establish a deviating signal pattern with a milk flow sensor, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check relevant udder quarter".

80. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
30 or more measuring instruments establish a deviation in a milk yield, a temperature, a feed consumption and movement

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in the box, there is determined a diagnosis implying "attention heat".

81. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
5 or more measuring instruments establish a decreased feed consumption of a particular animal, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check animal's health".

82. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
10 or more measuring instruments establish a great divergence in measurements of a weighing floor, there is determined a diagnosis implying "animal unquiet".

83. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
15 or more measuring instruments establish a great divergence in measurements of weight of a feeding trough, there is determined a diagnosis implying "animal unquiet".

84. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
20 or more measuring instruments establish a decreased speed of emptying a feeding trough for an animal, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check animal's health".

85. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
25 or more measuring instruments establish a decreased visiting frequency of an animal to the milking robot, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check animal's health".

86. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one
30 or more measuring instruments establish a too low milk yield

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in comparison with an animal's ration, there is determined a diagnosis implying "ration not correct and/or check animal's activity".

87. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70
5 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish a drifting of teat positions in height, there is determined a diagnosis implying "dropsy and/or sagging udder".

88. A construction as claimed in any one of claims 70
10 to 74, wherein the computer is programmed such that when one or more measuring instruments establish that an animal slowly enters and/or leaves the milking robot, there is determined a diagnosis implying "check claw condition".

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