

Sample Size, Transport and Reporting Information

Food and Solid Samples

Introduction

The following is provided as a general guideline for submitting samples. For most purposes 100 grams will be enough, for five or more analyses on a sample consult the following information.

Please note all times are based on the incubation period, where a result falls due on a weekend or public holiday results are issued on the next working day.

A sample Size of 10 gram/ml is not cumulative when prefixed by * - That means that multiple analyses can be performed from the one 10 gram/ml sample.

For analyses prefixed with †. Care should be taken to collect sufficient sample for analysis e.g. sea foods such as prawns for *Vibrio cholerae* and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* will require a minimum of 75 grams of flesh. 75 grams of whole prawns will not be enough and only yields approximately 35 to 40 grams of flesh.

Transportation should be at the same temperature that the product is stored. Shelf-stable products can be transported refrigerated or at ambient temperature.

Analysis	Sample Size	Time to a negative result	Additional time for confirmation of suspect positive
Aerobic Spore Count	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Aeromonas species	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	2-4 days
Anaerobic Mesophilic Spore Count	* 10 grams/ml	3 days	Not Applicable
Anaerobic Plate Count	* 10 grams/ml	3 days	Not Applicable
Anaerobic Spore Forming Bacteria Count	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
Bacillus cereus	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1 day
Brochothrix thermosphacta	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	0-1 day
Campylobacter species	25 grams/ml or larger as required by customer	4 days	2-3 days
Clostridium perfringens	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	2-4 days
Clostridium species	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
Coliforms – Standard method	* 10 grams/ml	1 day	Not Applicable
Coliforms/Faecal Coliforms and/or E. coli – Tube Most Probable Number method	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
E. coli – Standard method	* 10 grams/ml	1 day	Not Applicable
E. coli/Coliforms and/ or Faecal Coliforms – Tube Most Probable Number method	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
Enterobacteriaceae	* 10 grams/ml	1 day	Not Applicable
Enterococci	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Faecal Coliforms – Standard method	* 10 grams/ml	1 day	Not Applicable
Faecal Coliforms/ Coliforms and/or E. coli –	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days

Tube Most Probable Number method			
Faecal streptococci	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Fungi - Yeast and Mould	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Lactic Acid Bacteria	* 10 grams/ml	3 days	Not Applicable
Legionella	10 grams/ml	7 days	0-2 days
Listeria monocytogenes	25 grams/ml or larger as required by customer	2 days	1-2 days
Listeria species		2 days	1-2 days
Mesophilic Spore Count	* 10 grams/ml	3 days	Not Applicable
Mould	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Plate Count – general samples	* 10 grams/ml	3 days @ 30 °C	Not Applicable
Plate Count – other samples	* 10 grams/ml	2-5 days Incubation temperature and period specified by customer	Not Applicable
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	2-4 days
Pseudomonas species	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
Psychrotrophic Organism Count	* 10 grams/ml	10 days	Not Applicable
Rope Spores	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Salmonella species	25 grams/ml or larger as required by customer	3 days	2-4 days
Shigella species	25 grams/ml or larger as required by customer	2 days	2-4 days
Slime-Forming Bacteria	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Staphylococcus (Coagulase Positive)	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
Sulphite Reducing Clostridia	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	1-2 days
Thermo Spore-Forming Bacteria	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Thermophilic Plate Count	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
Total Mesophilic Count	* 10 grams/ml	2 days	Not Applicable
† Vibrio cholerae	25 grams/ml or larger as required by customer	2 days	2-5 days
† Vibrio parahaemolyticus	50 grams/ml	3 days	2-5 days
Wild Yeast Count	* 10 grams/ml	5 days	Not Applicable
Yeast	* 10 grams/ml	5 days	Not Applicable
Yeast & Mould & Acidophilic Bacteria	* 10 grams/ml	5 days	Not Applicable
Yersinia enterocolitica	25 grams/ml or larger as required by customer	11 days	2-4 days