



Instruction Change Notice

In an ongoing effort to improve ERA product designs we have made a change to this microbiology product. The instructions provided **no longer require 30 minute pre-warming of the provided buffer solution before adding the lyophilized organisms. In addition, it no longer requires 30 minutes in the incubator after the pellet has been added to completely dissolve the pellet.** We believe that you will find this product enhancement to be a great improvement. Please read the instructions carefully prior to using this product. If you have any questions, please call ERA technical support at 1-888-372-0122 prior to using the new instructions.

Description:

- This set of standards consists of ten glass vials (Sample 1 through Sample 10) each containing one gelatin tablet and a desiccant pouch. The bacteria are contained in the gelatin tablet. Ten sterile, 100-mL phosphate buffered dilution blanks are also provided with each set.
- The glass vials containing the bacteria should be stored at $4\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- The phosphate buffered dilution blanks can be stored at room temperature.

Before you begin:

- The bacteria are in a lyophilized form in the gelatin tablets and each sample must be rehydrated per the following instructions prior to analysis.
- ERA recommends that the quality control guidelines in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, Section 9020B be followed to determine media acceptability prior to analysis.
- “EPA strongly recommends that laboratories evaluate the false-positive and negative rates for method(s) they use for monitoring total coliforms . . . with the intent that if the method they choose has an unacceptable false-positive or negative rate, another method can be used.” – 40 CFR 141.21 f.3.12
- To avoid reporting any false positive results, follow the coliform verification steps as indicated in the method you are using. Both typical and atypical colonies need to be verified.
- This standard contains viable microorganisms and should be analyzed **immediately** after being hydrated.
- You must report values for both Total and Fecal/E. coli Coliforms if you are seeking accreditation for both. We are not allowed to assume, for example, that if you reported a sample as Fecal Coliform positive that you also intended to report the same sample as Total Coliform positive.

Instructions:

1. Remove the vials from refrigeration and allow them to warm to room temperature.
2. Carefully open the dilution blank that has been stored at room temperature.
3. Open the appropriate bacteria sample vial and aseptically transfer the gelatin tablet into the dilution blank bottle.
4. Properly dispose of the empty glass vial and desiccant pouch.
5. Reseal the bottle that now contains the bacteria sample.
6. With the bottle tightly closed, shake the sample for a few seconds. Observe the sample to confirm that the gelatin tablet has dissolved. If the tablet has not completely dissolved, shake for a few more seconds.
7. Prepare all ten samples as above.
8. Analyze the inoculated samples using your normal procedures.
9. Report your results as presence or absence based on the 100 mL samples prepared.
10. Remember to report results for both Total and Fecal/E. coli Coliforms for each sample if you are seeking accreditation for both tests.

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Safety:

- ERA products may be hazardous and are intended for use by professional laboratory personnel trained in the competent handling of such materials. Responsibility for the safe use of these products rests entirely with the buyer and/or user. If you need a Material Safety Data Sheet for any ERA product, please call toll free at 1-800-372-0122.
- **ERA Microbiology standards contain live microorganisms** and should be used only by individuals with bacteriological training.
- Properly disinfect any spills and sterilize used containers by autoclaving before disposal.