



Instructions for Catalog # 080A
Potable Water Coliform MicrobE™
Revision 040518

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 hydrating fluids are also provided with each set.
- The glass vials containing the bacteria should be stored at $4\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- The hydrating fluid can be stored at room temperature.
- Various aspects of this proficiency testing scheme may be subcontracted. When subcontracting occurs, it is performed by a competent subcontractor and ERA is responsible for subcontracted work.

Before you begin:

- The bacteria are in a lyophilized form in the gelatin tablets and each sample must be hydrated per the following instructions prior to analysis.
- The hydrating fluids provided are **not** intended to be used as sample test vessels. The containers with hydrating fluid are provided for the purpose of creating the samples. Using these containers may present difficulty when interpreting sample results for some tests. ERA would suggest transferring the sample to your routine sample containers to avoid misinterpretation of results.
- 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 each analyte that you are seeking accreditation. 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 hydrating fluid that has been stored at room temperature.
3. Open the appropriate bacteria sample vial and aseptically transfer the gelatin tablet into the hydrating fluid 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 each analyte that you are seeking accreditation for the method you are using.

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.

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