



Instructions for Catalog # 694  
Potable Water Coliform MicrobE™  
Revision 021612

Description:

- This set of standards consists of five glass vials (Sample A through Sample E) each containing one gelatin tablet and a desiccant pouch. The bacteria are contained in the gelatin tablet. Five 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.
- This product is intended to be used as a quality control check of the entire analytical process for the analytes/matrix included in the standard.

Helpful Hints:

- The bacteria are in a lyophilized form in the gelatin tablets and each sample must be rehydrated per the following instructions prior to analysis.
- The phosphate buffered dilution blanks provided are **not** intended to be used as sample test vessels. The containers with buffer 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.

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 five samples as above.
8. Analyze the inoculated samples using your normal procedures.

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.