



Instructions for Catalog # 880

Enterococci

Revision 121619

Description:

- This standard consists of one glass vial containing one gelatin tablet and a desiccant pouch. The bacteria are contained in the gelatin tablet. One sterile, 100 mL hydrating fluid is also provided.
- This standard is not preserved.
- The glass vial 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.
- This standard contains Enterococci/Fecal Streptococci in the range of 20 to 1000 CFU/100 mL and/or 20 to 1000 MPN index/100 mL.

Before you Begin:

- 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.
- This standard contains viable microorganisms and should be analyzed **immediately** after being hydrated.
- Membrane Filtration results reported as “too numerous to count” will be evaluated as “No Evaluation”.
- Most probable number results reported as “> value” will be scored as not acceptable.
- If analyzing this sample using membrane filter method, evaluation limits will be as whole numbers.
- If analyzing this sample using a most probable number (MPN) method, evaluation limits will be to three significant figures.
- When choosing sample sizes for analysis, note that the manufacturing range for this product is 20 to 1000 CFU/100 mL (MPN index/100 mL).
- The sample resulting after completion of step 6 in the instructions below represent the sample for analysis. Performing additional processing steps normally associated with routine sample collection, such as adding dechlorinating agents ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3$) or chelating agents (EDTA) is not appropriate. Inference of routine sampling holding times is also not appropriate.

Instructions:

1. Remove the vial from refrigeration and allow to warm to room temperature.
2. Carefully open the hydrating fluid that has been stored at room temperature.
3. Open the bacteria sample vial and aseptically transfer tablet into the hydrating fluid.
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. Analyze the inoculated sample using your normal procedures.
8. Report your results as CFU/100 mL or MPN/100 mL for the sample prepared as above.

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. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all ERA products are available through our website www.eraqc.com.
- **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.