



Water & Environmental Microbiology Proficiency Testing

Modern water distribution systems in developed countries provide clean water to vast populations, so regular monitoring of water quality in terms of microbiological safety is highly regulated.

A failure in the system could lead to a significant public health risk, if contamination with a pathogenic organism were to enter such a widespread and essential commodity. Rather than looking for pathogens themselves, which should never be present at detectable levels in a well-controlled system, laboratories look at the overall hygienic status of the water, and specifically look for organisms which would indicate a failure of the treatment system. Such organisms should be absent or below the set limit for drinking water.

The Fapas® water and environmental microbiology scheme covers all the common indicator organisms for drinking water, as well as *Legionella* spp. in environmental (cooling) waters and common water parasites associated with water treatment failure (*Cryptosporidium*).

The programme also covers water quality tests for swimming pool and spa waters and tests for outdoor bathing waters whether they are swimming lakes or beach bathing.



Original thinking... applied

Water & Environmental Microbiology Testing Schedule

Materials / Products	Type of Test / Properties Measured
Lyophilised vials	Enumeration
PBS suspensions	Total coliforms
Drinking Water	<i>E. coli</i>
Swimming Pool Water	TVC (37°C/24hours)
Bathing Water	Colony counts (22°C/3 days)
Environmental Water	Colony counts (37°C/2 days)
	Enterococci
	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>
	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>
	Coagulase positive staphylococci
	Total staphylococci
	<i>Legionella</i> spp.
	Parasitology
	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> oocysts
	<i>Giardia</i> cysts
	Detection
	Organism Identification
	<i>E. coli</i> O157
	<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.
	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.
	<i>Legionella</i> spp.



Original thinking... applied

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