

CLIENT GUIDELINES

Listeria Sampling – Swab Method

The information in this guideline is being provided to you as a resource to enable you to develop a sampling plan for your operation prior to sampling and sending your sample to PrimusLabs.com for analysis. This is not a complete procedure however, but it is based upon the requirements of Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods.

The analytical results for these samples are representative only of the actual sample sent to PrimusLabs.com (please see the Disclaimer of Warranties provided with the final approved results or on our web site – www.primuslabs.com).

SUPPLIES:

Sterile Swabs	Cooler with gel ice packs
Rubber gloves	Water resistant marker
Letheen Broth	

REMARKS:

1. Do not open sterile swabs until you start sampling.
2. Samples should be taken just prior to sending them to the lab as analysis should begin within 24 hours of sampling.

PROCEDURE:

1. Select the equipment surface to be sampled.
2. Open the sterile swab container.
3. Grasp the end of the sterile swab stick, being careful not to touch any portion that might be inserted into the vial.
4. Remove the swab aseptically without touching the cotton end.
5. Open a vial of Letheen Broth, moisten the swab head, and press out the excess solution against the interior wall of the vial with a rotating motion.
6. Hold the swab handle to make a 30° angle contact with the surface.
7. Rub the swab head slowly and thoroughly over approximately 50 cm² of surface three times, reversing direction between strokes.
8. Return the swab head to the solution vial, rinse briefly in the solution, then press out the excess.
9. Swab four more 50 cm² areas of the same surface being sampled, as above, rinsing the swab in the solution after each swabbing, and removing of excess.
10. After the areas have been swabbed, position the swab head in the vial, and break or cut it with sterile scissors leaving the swab head in the vial.
11. Replace the screw cap.
12. Mark the outside of the sterile vial with sample identification Number.
13. Repeat numbers 1 through 12 for each sample.
14. Place the samples into a cooler with sufficient blue ice to maintain the sample condition during transport to the laboratory facility.
15. Samples need to be analyzed within 24 hours.

Note: If using water based ice, ensure that it is double-bagged to prevent contamination of the sample.