

HPA Microbiology Scheme Summary 2010-2011



	Legionella in Waters	Drinking Water Scheme	Surface Water Scheme	Standard	Extended	Food Law	Shellfish	Non-Pathogen	Pathogenic Vibrio	Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin detection
Participants	Laboratories that examine waters for <i>Legionella</i> spp. <i>The scheme includes samples containing a range of different serogroups of Legionella pneumophila, and Legionella spp. other than L.pneumophila</i>	Laboratories that routinely monitor drinking water, examining for low levels of indicator organisms.	Laboratories that routinely monitor bathing beach and/or bathing pool waters for indicator organisms.	Laboratories that routinely test for a range of food-borne pathogens and indicator organisms <i>Participants are often private laboratories that test foods for clients in the food industry who may submit products routinely for microbial assessment, end product testing and customer complaints</i>	Laboratories investigating causes of food-poisoning and outbreaks of food-borne illness <i>Participants are often public health laboratories</i>	Laboratories that examine foods for compliance with Regulation (EC) 2073/2005, amended by (EC)1441/2007 <i>The scheme assesses participants' ability to test and interpret laboratory results in accordance with EU food safety and process hygiene criteria</i>	Laboratories testing raw live bivalve molluscs from harvesting beds for classification or end product testing. <i>Participants include all EU National Reference Laboratories responsible for testing live bivalve molluscs</i>	Laboratories on production sites that do not want to introduce pathogens <i>Participants are mainly laboratories that enumerate indicator and spoilage micro-organisms</i>	Laboratories examining food samples for <i>Vibrio</i> spp.	Laboratories that test food for <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> enterotoxin (SET) using a range of kits <i>Participants culture the Staphylococcus aureus from the sample vials then test for enterotoxin production.</i>
Request format	Specific request for <i>Legionella</i> spp.	Specific requests for named enumerations only	Specific requests for named enumerations only	Specific requests for named examinations only	Description of food implicated in illness, description of people affected, symptoms. Laboratories choose the examinations	<i>Description of product to be tested for compliance with legislation. Participants choose correct tests and must offer interpretation of their results</i>	Specific requests for named examinations only	Specific requests for named enumerations only	<i>V.parahaemolyticus</i> <i>V.cholerae</i> (non-O1 strains only)	Specific request to examine for SET and to indicate test kit used
Examinations	Detection, enumeration and identification of <i>Legionella</i> spp.	Coliforms <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Colony count (37°C/48 hours) Colony count (22°C/72 hours)	Bathing Beach Waters <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococcus <i>Salmonella</i> spp. Bathing Pool Waters Coagulase positive staphylococci Coliforms <i>Escherichia coli</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Colony count (37°C/48 hours) Colony count (22°C/72 hours) Rivers, lakes and stream waters <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterococci <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Colony count (37°C/48 hours) Colony count (22°C/72 hours)	Pathogens <i>Salmonella</i> spp. <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 non-toxicogenic strains <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Enumerations <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Coagulase positive staphylococci <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> Aerobic colony count <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae Coliforms	Pathogens <i>Salmonella</i> spp. <i>Listeria</i> spp. <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 non-toxicogenic strains <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> <i>Bacillus cereus</i> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> Coagulase positive staphylococci <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> Enumerations Aerobic colony count <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae	Pathogens <i>Salmonella</i> spp. <i>Listeria</i> spp. <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> Enumerations <i>Bacillus cereus</i> Coagulase positive staphylococci <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> Aerobic colony count <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae	<i>E.coli</i> most probable number (MPN) <i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Aerobic colony count Coliforms <i>Escherichia coli</i> Enterobacteriaceae Enterococci Lactic acid bacteria <i>Pseudomonas</i> sp. Yeasts Moulds	Presence/absence and enumerations <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> (non-O1)	Test for presence of SET
Sample format	LENTICULE discs	LENTICULE discs	LENTICULE discs	Freeze-dried micro-organisms in glass vials	Freeze-dried micro-organisms in glass vials	LENTICULE discs	LENTICULE discs	Freeze-dried micro-organisms in glass vials	Freeze-dried micro-organisms in glass vials	Freeze-dried micro-organisms in glass vials
No. of distributions per year	Four	Six	Four	Six	Six	Four	Three	Three	Two	Two
No. samples per distribution	Three	Three	Two	Two	Two	Three	Two	Three	Two	Two
Scoring system used	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Continuous performance assessment	Yes <i>Line-listing report dispatched with every distribution</i>	Yes	To be introduced	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	To be introduced	None	No
Statistics	Percentiles	Percentiles	Percentiles	Percentiles	Percentiles	MADD	Standard deviations	MADD	MADD	Not applicable
Report format	Line-listing of all results by laboratory identification number with comments on performance	Individualised	Individualised	Individualised with cumulative scores	Same report sent to all participants with accompanying score sheets that show scores for each sample and cumulative scores	Individualised with scores	Individualised with scores	Line-listing of all results by laboratory identification number with comments on performance	Line-listing of all results by laboratory identification number with comments on performance	Line-listing of all results by laboratory identification number with comments on performance
CRMs	<i>L.pneumophila</i> NCTC 12821	<i>E.coli</i> NCTC 9001	<i>E.coli</i> NCTC 9001	<i>B.cereus</i> NCTC 7464 <i>E.coli</i> NCTC 9001 <i>L.monocytogenes</i> NCTC 11994 S. Nottingham NCTC 7832 <i>Staph.aureus</i> NCTC 6571	<i>B.cereus</i> NCTC 7464 <i>E.coli</i> NCTC 9001 <i>L.monocytogenes</i> NCTC 11994 S. Nottingham NCTC 7832 <i>Staph.aureus</i> NCTC 6571	<i>B.cereus</i> NCTC 7464 <i>E.coli</i> NCTC 9001 <i>L.monocytogenes</i> NCTC 11994 S. Nottingham NCTC 7832 <i>Staph.aureus</i> NCTC 6571	<i>E.coli</i> NCTC 9001 S. Nottingham NCTC 7832	None	None	None