



# SAFETY DATA SHEET

## Safety Data Sheet for:

Health Protection Agency (HPA) Proficiency Testing (PT) samples for food and water microbiology and certified reference material (CRM) products in **LENTICULE disc** format

**Effective date:** 1 April 2012

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**Issued to:** All users of HPA PT schemes and CRM products

**Access:** Document to be downloaded from HPA website



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## Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit (FEPTU)

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## SAFETY DATA SHEET FOR HPA FOOD AND WATER MICROBIOLOGY LENTICULE DISC PRODUCTS (PT AND CRMs)

### 1. Identification of the product and the establishment

Product: Simulated food/water samples for microbiological examinations  
That may contain a mixture of micro-organisms or control  
micro-organisms in pure culture.

Establishment: The Health Protection Agency  
HPA Microbiology Services **Colindale**  
Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit (FEPTU)  
61 Colindale Avenue  
London NW9 5EQ

Telephone (9.00 – 17.00 hours) +44 (0) 20 8327 7119

Telephone (Out of working hours) +44 (0) 20 8200 4400

### 2. Composition/information on ingredients

Plastic vials containing bacteria of Hazard Group 2, that may include *Legionella pneumophila*, in tablet format (LENTICULE disc) with a silica gel desiccant Hazard Group 2 as defined by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens 2004 Approved List of Biological Agents <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc208.pdf>  
A Hazard Group 2 organism may cause human disease and may be a hazard to laboratory workers, but is unlikely to spread to the community.

The silica gel self-indicating (orange) inserts are not classified as dangerous material.

### 3. Hazards identification

Physico-chemical hazard: Not applicable

Health hazard: Minimal risk of infection provided good laboratory  
practice is observed

Environmental hazard: Not applicable

### 4. First aid measures

If accidental contact with material occurs laboratory staff must follow local first aid procedures that are normally applied following exposure to an equivalent food sample.

### 5. Fire fighting measures

Not applicable

### 6. Accidental release measures

Pick up the dropped tablet (LENTICULE disc) with absorbent material moistened with a suitable disinfectant. Wipe area with a similarly moistened pad of absorbent material and subsequently sterilise all paper and the tablet (LENTICULE disc).

**7. Handling and storage**

Store at -20±5 °C. Samples must be processed in a laboratory environment which, as defined by national regulations or guidelines, is suitable for the handling of micro-organisms of ACDP Hazard Group 2. Staff handling the material should have been trained in the handling of infectious biological material. The material should be treated with the same degree of care as would be exercised with equivalent food and water samples submitted to the laboratory for testing. Hand-to-mouth contact should be avoided while working with the samples and normal hand-washing procedures relating to the handling of routine samples must be observed also with PT and CRM samples.

**8. Exposure controls/Personal protection**

Use good laboratory practice and wear appropriate laboratory coat.

For products known to contain *Legionella* spp. or those that are supplied as part of the Water Microbiology Scheme for Legionella Isolation, reconstitution procedures should be handled in a microbiology safety cabinet conforming to EN12469:2000 *Biotechnology – Performance criteria for microbiological safety cabinets*.

**9. Physical and chemical properties**

Inert odourless dry material.

**10. Stability and reactivity**

Long term storage will not increase the risks of infection associated with handling the material.

**11. Toxicological information**

Not applicable

**12. Ecological information**

Not applicable

**13. Disposal considerations**

The used material must be disposed of using an autoclave as for food/water samples containing infectious micro-organisms and in accordance with all local and national regulations.

**14. Transport information**

Refer to national and international regulations for transport of bacteria in Hazard Group 2 (Biological substance, category B; UN3373).

**15. Regulatory information**

EC Biological agent, Hazard Category/Risk Group 2

Note that this safety data sheet does not constitute the user's own assessments of workplace risk as required by Health and Safety legislation.

## 16. Other information

In the event of an accident involving exposure of staff to the material contained in the samples, contact the Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit (+44 (0) 20 8327 7119) during normal UK working hours. The Colindale Duty Officer (+44 (0) 20 8200 4400) should be contacted out of hours.

For further safety information concerning this product, participants are advised to read the instruction sheets available from the web-site: [www.hpa.org.uk/eqa](http://www.hpa.org.uk/eqa)