

# Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit



The final date for return of results is indicated on the accompanying request/report form

## Contact details:

The Organisers - FEPTU  
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www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/legionella

**Results may be returned by fax, mail or e-mail**



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**Safety Data Sheet is available at [www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/legionella](http://www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/legionella)**

## Water EQA Legionella Isolation Scheme - Instruction Sheet

Each distribution consists of **three LENTICULE discs** in screw-cap plastic vials (with desiccant). The LENTICULE discs require reconstitution by a process of re-hydration and dispersion prior to examination for legionellae.

Refer also to the Safety Data Sheet: [www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/legionella](http://www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/legionella)

### Storage:

- Store the samples at **-20 ± 5°C** on receipt.
- Allow the LENTICULE discs to reach ambient temperature (5 - 10 minutes) before reconstituting in diluent.

### Reconstitution:

- Open the sample container and transfer the LENTICULE disc into **1 Litre** of diluent (use either Page's saline or 1:40 Ringers' solution) by inverting the container over the diluent.
- Leave at ambient temperature for a minimum of 10 minutes to re-hydrate. Ensure that the LENTICULE disc has dissolved completely before proceeding.
- Disperse the inoculum by inverting approximately 30 times.

### Examination:

- **Each reconstituted LENTICULE disc is equivalent to a 1 Litre water sample.**
- The request/report form indicates the sample dilutions most likely to give a definitive result (rather than a censored value) – **do not report results in the shaded boxes.**
- Once the dilutions have been prepared, the samples must be examined in accordance with routine procedures.
- All samples require examination for the presence of *Legionella* spp.
- The identification and level (colony forming units per Litre (cfu L<sup>-1</sup>) of any legionellae detected must be determined.

### Reporting:

- Record results on the accompanying request/report form.
- The form allows the reporting of results for untreated, heat-treated and acid-treated samples.
- **Only the final results will be used to assess participants' performance.**
- If comments are provided routinely by your laboratory regarding the subsequent action required for the water-source then these should be included on the request/report form. This will help with the assessment of your performance.

### Return of Results:

- Return results to the organisers before the deadline shown on the request/report form.
- Results returned after that date will **not** be assessed.