

Sampling Protocol

Bacteriological Analysis of Bathing Waters

READ CAREFULLY BEFORE PROCEEDING

You will find herewith the necessary container(s) for your sampling.

In the cooler you received from the laboratory, you will find:

- A sampling certificate (this form is for single use only - do not photocopy);
- An icepack;
- One or more sealed and sterile bottles containing a preservative (sodium thiosulfate) bearing a bar code identification. This barcode is linked to your request for traceability measures. In the event that you need to take more of a sample, make sure to take the correct bottle with the correct sampling certificate;
- A prepaid bill of lading for return to the laboratory by the courier service.

***Before sampling: Keep the icepack in the freezer
(at least 6 hours, until it is completely frozen)***

PRECAUTIONS

- The bottle provided is sealed and sterility checked. This seal must be intact to ensure the integrity and sterility of the bottle. We advise you not to use a bottle whose safety seal has been broken, as this may affect the quality of your analysis results. In this case, we ask you to notify us and we will replace it;
- The bottle contains a preservative. It is therefore important not to rinse the bottle, discard this preservative or transfer water from one bottle to another;
- Do not spill the bottle and avoid splashing as the preservative may damage the surfaces with which it would come into contact. If this happens, rinse with water.

SAMPLING FOR SWIMMING POOLS AND OTHER ARTIFICIAL BASINS

(Regulation respecting the quality of water in swimming pools and other artificial pools)

1. Always start a sampling campaign with the samples for microbiological analyzes and then with those for chemical analysis, where appropriate;
2. Sampling for microbiological analyzes should be carried out with particular attention and the sampler should ensure that the hands are cleaned beforehand;
3. All samples for microbiological testing shall be taken from the wide-mouth sterile containers provided by the laboratory. Any other type of container will cause your sample to be rejected. These containers contain a preservative to neutralize chlorine. It is important not to rinse or lose this preservative;
4. In order to preserve the sterility of the container, open it only at the time of sampling;
5. The sample must be taken from an uncrowded part of the pool when sampling between the outlet of the filtration system and the return of water. In the case of whirlpools, samples may be taken at any point below the surface of the water;
6. Samples for microbiological and turbidity testing shall be collected during normal operating hours, 15 to 30 cm below the water surface or where the depth of the basin is less than 30 cm, halfway between the surface of the water and the bottom of the basin;
7. In order not to lose the reagent, care must be taken to dip the container towards the bottom of the basin in one motion and at an angle of 45°;
8. Containers should be filled to the shoulder with an air gap of at least 2.5 cm and the cap should be replaced immediately after sampling;
9. Cool samples if possible immediately after sampling before shipment. Samples frozen or containing traces of frazil will be discarded;
10. Carefully pack the samples and ensure that the caps are properly closed to prevent spillage during transport;
11. Ship the samples in the coolers provided by the laboratory, taking care to insert an icepack to maintain the temperature during transport.

SAMPLING FOR NATURAL BASINS (Lake, river, beach)

1. Establish a range plan and define the number of stations to be sampled or according to the instructions of your consultant;
 - For a circular or linear beach with a bathing area less than 1.2 meters deep: collect at each station, about 2 meters apart, where the depth reaches 0.7 meters;
 - For a linear beach with a bathing zone deeper than 1.2 meter: sample alternately at each station, about 2 meters apart, where the depth reaches 0.3 meters and another where the depths reaches 1.2 meters. All samples for microbiological testing should be collected from the wide-mouth sterile containers provided by the laboratory. Any other type of container will cause your sample to be rejected. These containers contain a preservative to neutralize chlorine. It is important not to rinse or lose this preservative.
2. In order to preserve the sterility of the container, open the container only at the time of sampling. To avoid contaminating the container, avoid touching the inside of the container or cap with the fingers;
3. Unscrew the cap when sampling only. Immerse the bottle, to a depth of about 15cm below the surface of water in the opposite direction of the sampler, with the opening first to prevent the introduction of surface debris.
4. Pull up the water and discard the surplus so that the water is leveled with the line (2cm from the neck). Close the bottle tightly with the cap and shake well;
5. Cool samples if possible immediately after sampling before shipment;
6. Carefully pack the samples and ensure that the caps are properly closed to prevent spillage during transport;
7. Ship the samples in the coolers provided by the laboratory, taking care to insert an icepack to maintain the temperature during transport.

IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED

The enclosed sampling certificate must clearly identify the date, the location, and the name of the responsible for the sampling. Also ensure that the coordinates where we are to send the analysis report be indicated in the space provided.

Samples received without the sampling certificate could be rejected.

SHIPMENT OF SAMPLES

If you use the transport voucher in your cooler, the day before the sampling, or in the morning, please call the telephone number on the bill of lading to schedule the pickup.

- Containers must reach the laboratory **within 48 hours** of sampling;
- Sampling must be done from Monday to Thursday;
- We ask you to send us your parcels the same day of the sampling so that we receive them the next day at the latest by the courier service.

Samples received at the laboratory more than 48 hours after sampling will be rejected.

RESULTS

You will receive by email your official certificate of analysis, within 5 to 7 working days from the date of receipt of your sample(s) to our laboratory.