

## ***Instructions for Handling Test Materials and Recording Results***

### **Handling and storage**

- The samples are transported at ambient temperatures and this does not affect the integrity of the samples, however, on receipt of the test material, please store at 2-8°C until ready to test.
- Test materials when reconstituted, represent a sugar solution, which may or may not contain the target organism(s) at a range of inoculum levels. (as described in the Scheme Description).
- Background flora may also be present in the sample.
- Samples are provided as a freeze-dried vial.
- Test materials should be analysed using the same procedure, reagents, agar and equipment as for routine samples.
- Use aseptic techniques at all times.
- Microbiological test materials contain viable micro-organisms and are supplied on the understanding that the purchaser has suitably competent and qualified personnel to handle them safely. Test materials must only be opened in a laboratory by qualified personnel. Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for information on the safe handling and disposal of the test materials.

### **Resuscitation for Sample 6 & 8**

1. Prepare 1L sterile deionised water to use as a diluent.
2. Aseptically remove cap and rubber stopper from the vial and reconstitute the freeze-dried test material by adding around 10ml of the diluent prepared in step 1.
3. Replace the stopper and shake to dissolve.
4. Add this concentrate to the remaining diluent.
5. Repeat this procedure two or three times to ensure all the freeze-dried test material is transferred from the vial.
6. Invert sample 5 times.
7. Leave to stand for a minimum of 60 minutes but no longer than 90 minutes.
8. Immediately before testing, mix the sample by inverting 5 times and then test for the target organism(s) using your routine laboratory method.
9. Filter 100ml aliquots for each of the target parameters (other methods and volumes may be used and results calculated accordingly).

### **Reporting**

- The sample represents a neat sample; any dilutions must therefore be taken into account when calculating and reporting the level of organisms present in the original sample.
- For quantitative results, if you do not detect the target organism, please report a result according to the detection limit of your method. For example, if the minimum detection limit of your method is 10 cfu ml<sup>-1</sup> and you do not detect the organism, the result should be reported as <10 cfu ml<sup>-1</sup>.
- When inputting results, please select the method that most closely represents the method you have used. Further information on methods can be found on PORTAL [www.lgcpt.com/portal](http://www.lgcpt.com/portal).
- If you do select 'Other' for method, please give details in the comments.

If you need any help at all please do not hesitate to contact our support team using the details below or your local LGC representative.

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