

## Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit

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

### Contact details:

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Results should be returned on-line using the web-based reporting system. Go to: [www.phe-ega.org.uk](http://www.phe-ega.org.uk). You will need your log-in details for this process. Please contact us if you experience problems with the on-line system.

## Environmental Swab - Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit

### Instruction Sheet for Swab Samples (dry swab)

The LENTICULE® discs are provided in screw-cap plastic vials (with a desiccant). Each LENTICULE disc rests on the filter support containing the desiccant. The **desiccant** should be orange in colour. Please contact us if this is not the case. Each LENTICULE disc requires reconstitution by a process of rehydration and dispersion prior to examination, as described below.

Refer also to the Safety Data Sheet: [Safety data sheet - LENTICULE](#)

#### Storage:

- Store the samples at  $-20 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$  on receipt.
- Allow the LENTICULE discs to reach ambient temperature (5 - 10 minutes) **before** rehydrating in diluent.

#### Reconstitution:

- Open the sample container and transfer the LENTICULE disc to a sterile petri dish.
- Add 100µL of maximum recovery diluent (MRD) to the LENTICULE disc. Leave for 10 minutes.
- Swab consists of a cotton topped wooden stick.
- Remove swab from enclosure by twisting the blue top to rip the perforated seal and pull out.
- Absorb rehydrated disc on one side, then rotate and swab remaining liquid.
- Place tip of swab on wall of universal for suspension to remove excess liquid if necessary to complete swabbing of area.
- Place the end of the swab into universal with 10mL of diluent (consider this a 1/10 dilution of the sample).
- Aseptically break off cotton top.
- Close container and mix swab and diluent. E.g. by vortexing.



#### Examination:

- For examination of organisms by an enumeration method make a further dilution by adding 90mLs of broth (e.g. MRD or BPW).
- For pathogen detection add 90mLs of the relevant broth for the pathogen being investigated.
- Participants will be asked to report enumeration of indicator organisms, either as cfu per swab or as cfu per cm<sup>2</sup>.
- Undertake the sample examinations between 30 - 45 minutes after reconstitution.
- Examine in accordance with your routine procedures.

#### Return of Results:

- Return your results on-line using the web-based reporting system.
- The distribution will be closed on the deadline date for return of results.
- Results cannot be accepted after the distribution has closed.