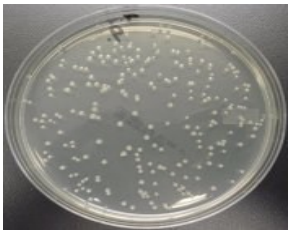
FEPTU
Food & Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit
Operated by UK Health Security Agency

Endoscope Rinse Water Scheme

Unrivalled experts as a PT provider - giving you confidence in your test results







This unique microbiology scheme provides proficiency testing (PT) samples to laboratories that examine endoscope rinse waters routinely for microbial contents. This scheme challenges the accurate enumeration of low levels of micro-organisms that may be present in this type of water.

Polices and guidance recommend that total viable counts should be made on the final rinse water. This is because the most significant problem associated with the use of automatic re-processors is contaminated rinse water that comes into contact with the endoscope after the disinfection process, increasing the risk of infection to patients.

This PT scheme helps you to identify gaps in your processes, highlighting where quality improvements can be made. It also provides an opportunity to improve staffs knowledge and experience with organisms not frequently encountered.

The scheme focuses on raising awareness of:

- the variation of different methods and media used and highlighting subsequent impact on PT results
- interpreting the microbiological results obtained

Examinations for this scheme are:
Total viable count (28-32°C for five days per 100mL)
Specific requests for the detection of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and yeasts/moulds

Up to three sets of results can be returned for any examination

Three distributions available per year, each containing two samples

Examine samples → Return results → Receive intended results → Receive personalised report

Your laboratory's personalised report will contain information such as:

- the contents and the levels of the sample
- performance data for each examination for you to compare your performance against other laboratories
- your on-going performance over a year which demonstrates your commitment to quality to clients and colleagues
- where relevant actions to take to ensure that your laboratory retains high standards of testing
- educational information on difficult and challenging samples

For your investigation repeat samples are provided free of charge and further expertise can be provided by our panel of renowned food and water microbiologists

Satisfactory performance with your PT provides assurance that your laboratory is compliant with testing standards, thereby meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements.

Contact Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit:
Tel: +44(0)20 8327 7119 email: foodeqa@ukhsa.gov.uk

UKAS PROFICIENCY TESTING
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Assisting laboratories world wide in maintaining standards of excellence



Food, water and environmental laboratories play a vital role in protecting the public's health by helping to ensure that food is safe to consume, waters are safe to drink and that environmental and recreational waters do not make people ill.

Proficiency testing or external quality assessment provides laboratories with an independent external assessment of their performance. Regular participation in proficiency testing schemes is an important part of laboratories quality procedures and helps to ensure that the results of their tests are accurate.

With over 35 years of experience, UK Health Security Agency's Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit is a world leader in providing microbiology proficiency testing schemes to food, water and environmental laboratories both in the UK and in over 70 countries internationally.

Our dedicated team of experts has unrivalled professional, scientific and technical expertise in proficiency testing. Participants also have the additional advantage of drawing on the full scientific resources of UK Health Security Agency.

Benefits of participating in UK Health Security Agency's food and water proficiency testing schemes:

- unique schemes provided based on current legislation
- inclusion of organisms such as *Mycobacterium* spp. in endoscope and cardiac heater cooler waters
- free of charge repeat samples
- access to expert food and water microbiologists
- bespoke schemes reports provided
- UKHSA and z-scores provided in some scheme reports
- ability to make extremely low level samples
- on-going performance assessment in the reports
- samples provided in easy to use LENTICULE® discs
- samples provided in easy to use formats

PT Schemes available include:

Environmental Swab

European Food Microbiology Legislation

Standard Scheme

Non-Pathogen

Norovirus and Hepatitis A virus*

Pathogenic *Vibrio*

Shellfish

Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*

Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin

Bottled and Mineral Water

Dialysis Water

Drinking Water

Endoscope Rinse Water

Hospital Tap Water

Legionella Isolation

Legionella Molecular

Recreational and Surface Water

Mycobacterium spp. in Water

Wastewater*

Most schemes are accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to the international standard ISO/IEC 17043:2023 *not accredited