

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. You will need your log-in details for this process. Please contact us if you experience problems with the on-line system.

[Legionella Isolation - Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit](#)

Water EQA Legionella Isolation – Instruction Sheet

Each distribution consists of **two 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: [Safety data sheet - LENTICULE](#)

For a video on sample processing: [Processing samples - Legionella Isolation Scheme](#)

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 rehydrate. Ensure that the LENTICULE disc has dissolved completely before proceeding.
- Disperse the inoculum by inverting approximately 30 times.
- Examine samples between 30 - 45 minutes after reconstitution.

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).
- 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⁻¹) of any legionellae detected must be determined.

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.