Instruction Sheets

QWAS
Water Microbiology
Proficiency Testing Scheme

lgcstandards.com/AXIO

Detailed information about samples, matrices, ranges, units, etc. can be found in the QWAS Scheme Description

Issue No: 24
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Storage after receipt

On receipt of the test material, record the date and store as appropriate.

Storage temperature	Samples			
Refrigerated (2 to 8°C)	PT-WT-412 PT-WT-413 PT-WT-414 PT-WT-416 PT-WT-417	PT-WT-418 PT-WT-419 PT-WT-420 PT-WT-421 PT-WT-422	PT-WT-423 PT-WT-424 PT-WT-425 PT-WT-426 PT-WT-429	PT-WT-432 PT-WT-433 PT-WT-434 PT-WT-435
Frozen (-20°C)	PT-WT-431	PT-WT-436		

Please note:

- Conditions for storage after receipt of the sample may differ from the conditions under which the PT sample was transported
- Stability data have shown that uncooled transport of samples intended to be stored at 2-8°C does not affect the stability of the test materials for the time of the PT round

The test material(s) should be analysed in accordance with the deadlines shown on the website: https://portal.lgcstandards.com

Choice of method or procedure

Participants are expected to use the test method, calibration, or measurement procedure of their choice. This method should be consistent with the participant's normal procedures, for example, duplicate analysis should only be performed if that is part of the routine analytical process.

Test materials when reconstituted, represent a 'real' or 'neat' water or effluent sludge sample, which may or may not contain the target organism(s) at a range of inoculum levels. Background flora may also be present.

Participants may submit results for some, or all the parameters requested.

Precautions

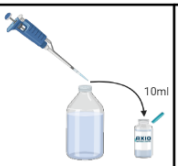
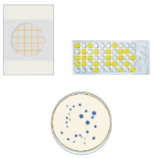
- Microbiological test materials contain viable micro-organisms and are supplied on the understanding that the purchaser has suitably competent and qualified personnel to handle them safely. Test materials must only be opened in a laboratory by qualified personnel.
- Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for information on the safe handling and disposal of the test materials

Reporting Results

- All results should be submitted using PORTAL
- Please go to https://portal.lgcstandards.com
- Login using your Lab ID, username, and password.
- A PORTAL user guide can be downloaded from the help section.

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.
Tel: +44(0)161 762 2500
Email: axiopt@lgcgroup.com

Protocol WM1V-A	Sample codes:			Description:	
	PT-WT-412	PT-WT-413	PT-WT-421	1 x 10ml vial	
	PT-WT-424	PT-WT-425	PT-WT-433		

Step 1 Prepare 1L sterile deionised water to use as a diluent		**Step 2** Aseptically remove cap and stopper from the vial and reconstitute the test material by adding 10ml of the diluent		**Step 3** Replace the vial stopper and shake to dissolve	
Step 4 Add this concentrate to the remaining diluent		**Step 5** Repeat this procedure 2 or 3 times to ensure all the freeze-dried test material is recovered from the vial		**Step 6** Invert sample 5 times	
Step 7 Leave to stand for 15 to 45 minutes	 This represents a real water sample	**Step 8** Test for the target organism(s) using your routine laboratory methods			

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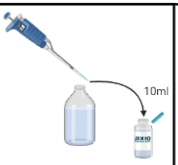
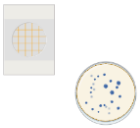
Protocol WM1V-B	Sample codes: PT-WT-414 PT-WT-429	Description: 1 x 10ml vial	

Step 1 Prepare 100mL sterile deionised water to use as a diluent		**Step 2** Aseptically remove cap and stopper from the vial and reconstitute the test material by adding 10ml of the diluent		**Step 3** Replace the vial stopper and shake to dissolve	
Step 4 Add this concentrate to the remaining diluent		**Step 5** Repeat this procedure 2 or 3 times to ensure all the freeze-dried test material is recovered from the vial		**Step 6** Invert sample 5 times	
Step 7 Leave to stand for 15 to 45 minutes	 This represents a real water sample	**Step 8** Test for the target organism(s) using your routine laboratory methods			

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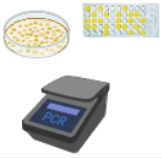
Protocol WM1VM	Sample codes: PT-WT-416 PT-WT-432	Description: 1 x 10g sludge	

Step 1 Prepare 90ml sterile deionised water to use as diluent		**Step 2** Reconstitute test material with the diluent prepared in step 1 and mix thoroughly		**Step 3** Leave to stand for 15 to 45 minutes	
Step 4 The reconstituted test material should be treated as the 'neat' sludge sample	 This represents neat sludge sample	**Step 5** Test for the target organisms using your routine laboratory methods			

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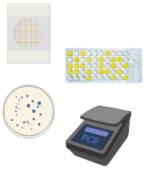
Protocol WM1V-C	Sample codes:			Description:	
	PT-WT-417	PT-WT-418	PT-WT-419	1 x 10ml vial	
	PT-WT-420	PT-WT-423	PT-WT-434		
	PT-WT-435				

Step 1 Prepare batches of 1L sterile deionised water to use as a diluent (depending upon the number of tests you wish to perform)		**Step 2** Aseptically remove cap and stopper from the vial and reconstitute the test material by adding 10ml of deionised water		**Step 3** Replace the vial stopper and shake to dissolve	
Step 4 Invert sample 5 times		**Step 5** Transfer 1ml aliquots to each 1L volume of sterile deionised water as required		**Step 6** Leave to stand for 15 to 45 minutes	 15-45 min resuscitation This represents a real water sample
Step 7 Test for the target organism(s) using your routine laboratory methods					

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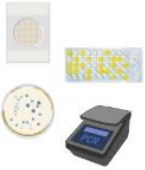
Protocol WM1V-D	Sample codes: PT-WT-422	Description: 1 x 10ml vial	

Step 1 Prepare batches of 1L sterile 3% saline to use as a diluent (depending upon the number of tests you wish to perform)		**Step 2** Aseptically remove cap and stopper from the vial and reconstitute the test material by adding 10ml of sterile 3% saline		**Step 3** Replace the vial stopper and shake to dissolve	
Step 4 Invert sample 5 times		**Step 5** Transfer 1ml aliquots to each 1L volume of sterile 3% saline as required		**Step 6** Leave to stand for 15 to 45 minutes	 This represents a real water sample
Step 7 Test for the target organism(s) using your routine laboratory methods					

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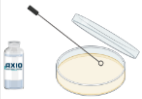
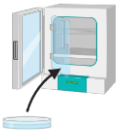
Protocol WM1V-E	Sample codes: PT-WT-426	Description: 1 x 10ml vial	

Step 1 Resuscitate the sample by adding 9ml of your chosen diluent		**Step 2** Mix the test material thoroughly under aseptic conditions		**Step 3** Leave the test material to resuscitate at room temperature for 15 to 45 minutes	
Step 4 Immediately before testing, mix the resuscitated sample thoroughly		**Step 5** Streak onto non-selective media		**Step 6** Incubate at mesophilic temperature	
Step 7 Use your microbiological knowledge and microbiology tests to identify the organism contained in the test material					

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Protocol WM1P	Sample codes: PT-WT-427	Description: 1 x paper	

Step 1 Count colonies and calculate the number of microorganisms according to the instructions	

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Protocol WM1T-A	Sample codes: PT-WT-431	Description: 1 tube containing lyophilised material	

Step 1 Prepare 500ml of sterile water		**Step 2** Aseptically transfer 1ml sterile water to the tube		**Step 3** Homogenise using the pipette	
Step 4 Transfer the 1ml to the main volume of sterile water		**Step 5** Repeat the procedure 2 or 3 times to ensure all the material is recovered from the vial		**Step 6** Analyse 100ml with your chosen method	

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Protocol WM1T-B	Sample codes: PT-WT-436	Description: 1 tube containing lyophilised material	

Step 1 Prepare 5ml of sterile water		**Step 2** Aseptically transfer 1ml of sterile water to the tube		**Step 3** Homogenise using the pipette	
Step 4 Transfer the 1ml to the vial of sterile water		**Step 5** Repeat the procedure 2 or 3 times to ensure all the material is recovered from the vial		**Step 6** Analyse 1ml with your chosen method 	

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