

NATIONAL MICROBIAL MONITORING PROGRAMME

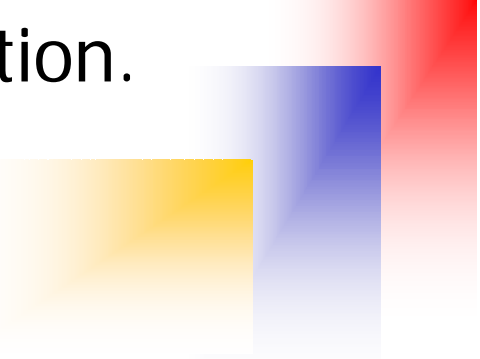
2004

Collection of Microbial samples for
Litigation Purposes

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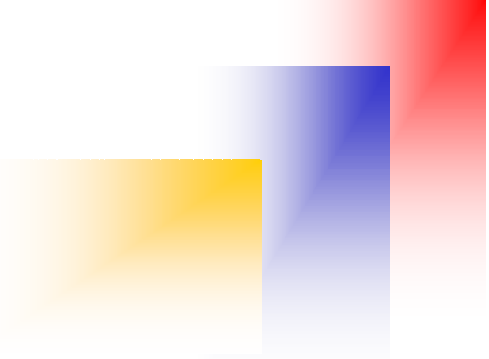


Basic Principles for Litigation samples

- Unambiguous identification of sampling site and situation. (Photo and description).
 - Ensure an Unbroken “Chain of Custody”
 - Collect sample in presence of a law enforcement officer, take of police station and seal. Deliver to lab in sealed condition, preferably within 6 hours of collection.
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Record of Chain of Custody

- A Written record of the chain of custody must be prepared and accompany sample from time of sampling to lab through lab and be attached to the sample analysis report.
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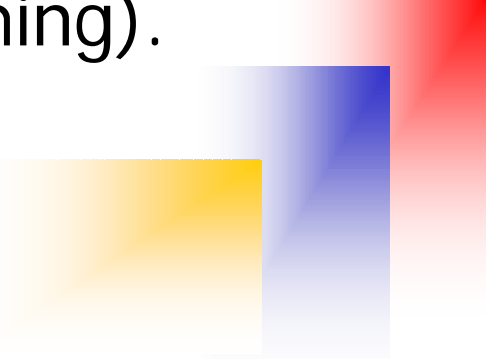


Accreditation of Laboratory

- The lab should preferably be accredited, or at the very least perform GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) with proof available of correct calibration and if possible recent inter-laboratory round robin results.
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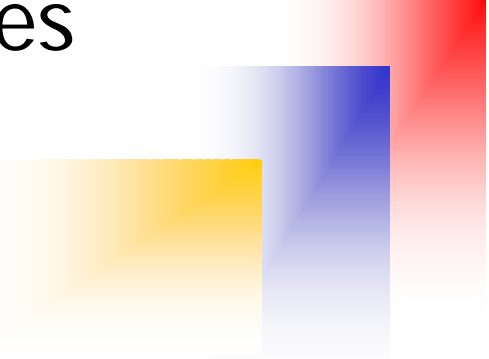
Details of chain of custody report



- The chain of custody report must have the name and signature of each person that handled the sample together with dates and times that each person received the sample at the various points in the chain of sampling to analysis to report, preferably together with their rank (ie job they are performing).
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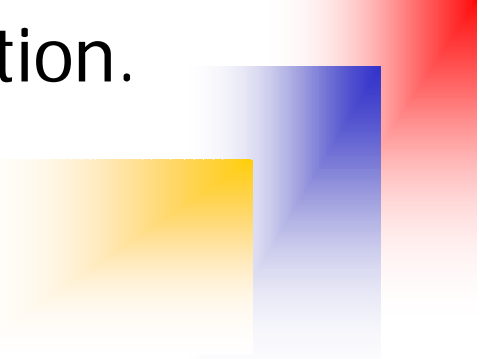


Sample Names

- The sample names must be unambiguously assigned at the time of sampling.
 - The analysis report must reflect the exact names given to the samples as appeared on the sample bottles
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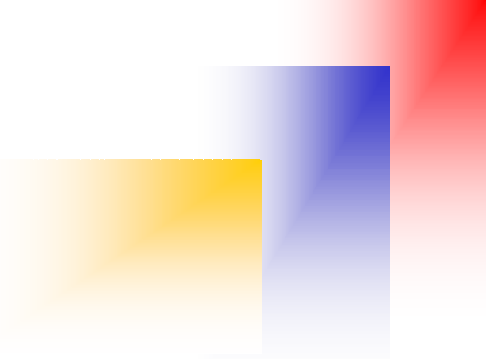


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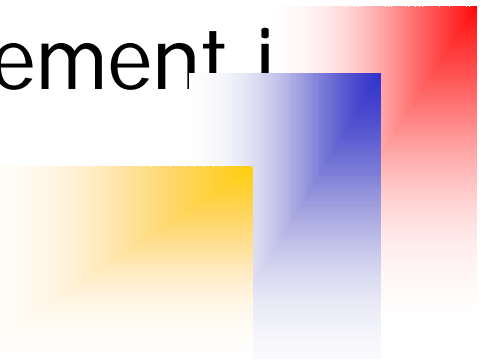


Sample Bottles used

- Standard sample bottles as supplied by the lab should preferably be used. If not then the exact type of bottle used and how it was disinfected (eg with boiling water) should be described in the analysis report.
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Triplicate analysis

- Where possible triplicate analysis should be done for litigation samples and the triplicate results together with the mean (average) and standard deviation reported.
 - It is also very important to use clear unambiguous units of measurement in the report
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Standard sampling practices for microbial samples



- Standard practices must where-ever possible be used, eg: Use of a cooler bag with ice or other suitable coolant to keep samples near 4 degrees C between collection and delivery at laboratory
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