

Potable Water Testing

Potable water is controlled in the European Union under COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption. This legislation specifies the monitoring requirements and acceptable limits for microorganisms.

The Standard potable water test carried out at MSL consists of:

Test	Incubation conditions	Volume to test
Colony count @ 22°C	3 days @ 22°C	1ml
Colony count @ 37°C	48 hours @ 37°C	1ml
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	24 hours @ 37°C	100ml
Enterococci	48 hours @ 37°C	100ml
Coliforms	24 hours @ 37°C	100ml
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	48 hours @ 37°C	100ml

Leisure Water Testing

Leisure water requirements are documented in the Environment Agency Blue Book 175 - The Microbiology of Recreational and Environmental Waters (2000).

The Standard leisure water test carried out at MSL consists of:

Microbiological parameter	Limit	Incubation conditions
Colony count @ 22°C	<100 cfu/ml	72 hours @ 22°C
Colony count @ 37°C	<10 cfu/ml	48 hours @ 37°C
Faecal coliforms	<1 cfu/100ml	24 hours @ 37°C
Coliforms	<1 cfu/100ml	24 hours @ 37°C
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	<1 cfu/100ml	48 hours @ 37°C
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<1 cfu/100ml	48 hours @ 37°C

Please do not hesitate to contact info@msl.io or call us on 01706 282960 for further information on our water testing services.





Water Testing

Waterborne infections have been a major cause of death and public health issues throughout history. Water is used for drinking, leisure purposes and as a major ingredient in a broad range of products, including food, cosmetics, toiletries and household products.

Water provides an excellent environment for microbial growth; the moisture and pH is ideal for the growth of a broad range of microorganisms and, in the majority of cases, the temperature of the water supports microbial growth.

Potable, Leisure and process waters are often treated with biocides to give on-going protection against microbial contamination. However, if the bio burden is high, the biocide may not be effective. Process water may be more vulnerable to contamination if it has been treated, e.g. carbon filtered, reverse osmosis or deionised, which may strip the water of biocides and the protection they provide.

Therefore, it is of paramount importance that water quality is controlled and monitored.

MSL offers a range of Standard water tests to meet customer needs. These Standard tests are listed below. MSL is also happy to discuss bespoke testing requirements and help establish appropriate sample plans. We also offer a consultancy service to advise clients on hygienic design and to investigate and troubleshoot contamination or hygiene issues.

Process Water Testing

Process water is the water used in the manufacturing of products (often as a raw material). Whilst there are no statutory requirements to monitor this water, it is Good Manufacturing Practice to ensure the quality of the water is satisfactory. As water is often the highest risk raw material, monitoring of it helps prevent final product contamination issues by identifying potential problems before they affect product. Therefore, manufacturers usually have a regular water sampling regime criteria for what level of contamination is acceptable in their system. The Orange Guide - Rules and Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Distributors 2015 - MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) can be used as a guide, and MSL are happy to advise clients on a suitable sampling and testing regime.

The standard process water test carried out at MSL consists of:

Microbiological parameter	Incubation conditions	Volume to test
Aerobic bacteria @ 22°C	5 days @ 22°C	100ml
Aerobic bacteria @ 30°C	3 days @ 30°C	100ml
Yeast and mould	5 days @ 22°C	100ml
<i>Pseudomonas</i> species	48 hours @ 30°C	100ml