

The TCEQ Lab Accreditation Program is issuing a revision to the drinking water fields of accreditation for microbiology. The fields have been revised to provide more clarity for the accredited laboratory, to include *E. coli* as an analyte in addition to total coliforms for presence/absence analyses, and to reflect the Revised Total Coliform Rule (40 CFR 141.851) which went into effect on April 1, 2016.

See Page 2 for additional information related to SM 9223 (presence/absence) testing

See Page 3 for additional information related to SM 9223 (enumeration) testing

Additions and clarifications were also made for multiple tube fermentation and membrane filtration analyses for enumeration and presence/absence to provide guidance and clarity for laboratories performing these methods; information relating to media used and what sections of the reference method are applicable for the target analyte were revised for clarity.

The changes to the drinking water fields of accreditation for microbiology will be effective October 15, 2016. Currently accredited laboratories will receive a revised scope on October 15, 2016. The renewal date for a laboratory's accreditation will not change. No action is required for currently accredited laboratories.

Beginning October 15, 2016, a laboratory submitting an application for accreditation or those seeking amended fields to a current accreditation, will submit the revised field of accreditation checklist with their application.

For questions please contact the TCEQ Accreditation Program senior microbiologist at 512-239-2353 or labprgms@tceq.texas.gov .

New Fields summary:

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/compliance/compliance_support/qa/final_revised_micro_dw_foa.pdf

SM 9223 (presence/absence)

The fields of accreditation were revised to couple total coliforms and *E. coli* for presence/absence (P/A) testing. For example, for laboratories currently accredited for SM 9223 Total coliforms (P/A), the fields have been revised to include *E. coli* with total coliforms. Laboratories will now select from the following fields, dependent on the media used to run the reference method:

- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colilert® Test for Total coliforms and *E. coli* (P/A)
- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colilert-18® Test for Total coliforms and *E. coli* (P/A)
- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colisure® Test for Total coliforms and *E. coli* (P/A)

E. coli has been added to reflect the requirements within the proficiency testing tables. Accredited laboratories will be required to submit presence/absence performance testing results for both total coliforms and *E. coli* effective October 15, 2016.

Laboratories who choose to use both Colilert® and Colilert-18® media:

The laboratory may use the results of a (P/A) PT study using one media to satisfy the (P/A) PT requirement for the other media.

The laboratory may use the results of a (P/A) demonstration of capability (DOC) study using one media to satisfy the (P/A) DOC requirement for the other media.

SM 9223 (enumeration)

The fields of accreditation were revised to include the option for enumeration of Total coliforms. For example, for laboratories currently accredited for SM 9223B (*Escherichia coli* enumeration), the fields have been revised to also include the option for Total coliforms (enumeration). Laboratories will now select from the following fields, dependent on the media used to run the reference method and the target analyte:

- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colilert® Quanti-Tray Test for Total coliforms (enumeration)
- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colilert® Quanti-Tray Test for *E. coli* (enumeration)
- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colilert-18® Quanti-Tray Test for Total coliforms (enumeration)
- SM 9223-IDEXX Laboratories Colilert-18® Quanti-Tray Test for *E. coli* (enumeration)

Laboratories who choose to use both Colilert® and Colilert-18® media:

The laboratory may use the results of a PT study using one media to satisfy the PT requirement for the other media for the target analyte.

For example: If a laboratory would like to be accredited for total coliforms and *E. coli* for Colilert® and Colilert-18® media, the laboratory must submit PT results for **both** total coliforms **and** *E. coli* using **either** Colilert® or Colilert-18®.

The laboratory may use the results of a DOC study using one media to satisfy the DOC requirement for the other media for the target analyte.

For example: If a laboratory would like to be accredited for total coliforms and *E. coli* for Colilert® and Colilert-18® media, the laboratory must perform DOCs for **both** total coliforms **and** *E. coli* using **either** Colilert® or Colilert-18®.