

## **Aseptic Sampling Protocol**

### **Scope**

This protocol is for sampling multiple points where the risk of cross contamination is to be reduced and an aseptic disinfection process is required.

This would include multiple point network sampling, WwTW sampling, bathing water derived investigations, river catchment monitoring and all sampling requiring multiple point microbiological determinants.

### **Equipment**

- Stainless steel only sampling receptacle (clean and sterile)
- Powder free disposable gloves
- Clinell Universal sanitising disinfectant wipes
- Virkon disinfectant tablets
- Sterile sample bottles/containers minimum 500ml size (microbiology)
- 15 metre PTFE coated steel core washing line sample rope
- Sampling pole 1.5-6 metres in length
- Cool box (plug in one with car adapter)
- Individual sample bottle bags (sealable)

### **Sampling Protocol**

1. For bathing water and river catchment sampling take A - the least contaminated sample, B - the highest up the catchment and/or C - upstream of a known point source contamination first where possible.
2. To take a sample fill up and empty the sampling can in the river water a minimum of 3 times before filling the sample bottle.
3. Fill the Microbiology bottle first then place in the provided sealable bottle bags and place in the cool box
4. After the sample is taken, using a disinfectant wipe clean all surfaces of the sampling can and the first 12-24" of the sample rope/pole thoroughly making sure all are covered and then allow to air dry
5. At the next sample point thoroughly rinse the sampling can in the river by agitating, fully immersing and then emptying it a minimum of 3 times to remove any disinfectant residue and then fill up the sample bottle.
6. Steps 5 and 6 are to be followed between each sample point, once all samples are taken the sampling can is to be cleaned as per the protocol below
7. All samples need to be stored out of direct light and at temperatures where possible of between 2-8°C in the cool box provided

### **Equipment Cleaning Protocol:**

1. Please note latex gloves and eye protection should be worn for all the stages
2. Make up the Virkon solution as per the directions on the container to a 1% strength solution and place in a large enough container to fully immerse the metal sample can.
3. Fully immerse the metal sample can in the virkon and leave to soak for a minimum of 12 hours.
4. Remove the sample can from the virkon and rinse all surfaces with boiling water and allow to air dry for 30 minutes repeat this 2 more times
5. Place the dry sampling can in a sealed zip-lock bag to be stored ready for the next sampling day.
6. Please note the virkon solution can be used a maximum of 2 times when the pink colour starts to drop out a new solution needs to be made up

**Equipment Details:**

- Telescoop Pendulum Beaker Stainless Steel 1000ml SKU: 1188092 - £173.06 (CamLab)
- TeleScoop Sample dippas, Sampling rod 1.74 to 6m SKU: 1172325 - £77.57 (CamLab)
- Clinell Universal disinfectant foaming wipes (green package) - £6.95 (Amazon)
- Sterile sample bottles – Supplied by the laboratory
- PTFE coated steel core washing line – available from most supermarkets approximately £1.50-£2
- Powder free disposable gloves – varying suppliers and price must be powder free.
- Day Impex Virkon Disinfectant Virucidal Tablets, code 12328667 - £168 (Fisher Scientific)