

Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
Division of Water
Laboratory Certification Program
DOWLabCertification@ky.gov

**PROFICIENCY TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR A DRINKING WATER OR
WASTEWATER MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY**

Laboratories seeking certification for Drinking Water Microbiology shall be certified in accordance with *USEPA Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water*, 5th Edition (2005), EPA 815-R-05 2004 (EPA Manual). Laboratories seeking certification for Wastewater Microbiology shall be certified in accordance with *Commonwealth of Kentucky Wastewater Laboratory Certification Manual* (2013).

Enumerated below are criteria for microbiology laboratories that wish to become certified or maintain certification for the microbiological analysis of drinking water or wastewater compliance samples in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

1. Participate in a **PT Study** offered by a Kentucky approved provider for all analyte-methods for which the lab is currently certified or for which certification is being requested. The [KY Approved Proficiency Test Providers List](#) is available online or by request.
2. Make sure to inform PT Study Provider to add Kentucky to the list of certifying authorities to receive a copy of the PT Study directly from the provider. PTs must be submitted by the PT provider via dowptresults@ky.gov.
3. For methods used to test the presence or absence of an organism in a sample, each PT set shall contain ten samples.
4. All labs reporting presence/absence (P/A) results for Total Coliform Rule (from P/A or MPN method) must complete a 10-sample PT set.
5. To be acceptable, a laboratory shall correctly analyze a minimum of nine of the ten P/A samples, with no false-negative results (a single false-positive result is acceptable).
6. If a drinking water laboratory completes a ten sample set for MPN, the lab can receive credit for P/A as well for that set. A single MPN sample will not be accepted for credit for P/A.
7. Each PT set shall be used only with a single analytical method (aside from the exception above in #5).

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8. Separate PTs shall be completed for Colilert and Colilert-18. Report specifically whether Colilert or Colilert-18 is used for the PT; do not report only SM 9223B as the method. KY method codes can be used to distinguish between Colilert and Colilert-18 (see below):

KY Method Codes: **305** Colilert-18 MPN, **306** Colilert MPN, **308** Colilert-18 P/A, **309** Colilert P/A

9. Separate PTs shall be completed for drinking water and wastewater. WP and DMR-QA studies are acceptable for wastewater; WS studies are acceptable for drinking water, and a source water (SW) sample in a WS study is acceptable for drinking water MPN methods (LT2-ESWTR).

Table 1. Examples of PTs to be performed

Laboratory's Certified Method(s)	Drinking Water PT(s)	Wastewater PT(s)
P/A: Colilert or Colilert-18	10 P/A samples in WS study.	
MPN: Colilert or Colilert-18	10 P/A samples and 1 MPN SW sample in WS study. -OR- 10 MPN samples in WS study.	1 MPN sample in WP or DMR-QA study.
P/A and MPN: Colilert or Colilert-18	10 P/A samples and 1 MPN SW sample in WS study. -OR- 10 MPN samples in WS study.	
Note: See item #8 in list preceding table.		

Please contact the Division of Water Laboratory Certification Program if any additional information or clarification is required.