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Providing Quality, Time Sensitive Microbiological Testing

IMPORTANT! Roesink Microbiology Laboratories does not accept Category A Infectious Substances (Biosafety Level 3 or 4 materials or any pathogen that causes highly contagious or otherwise serious disease).

Recommended Guidelines for Air Quality Monitoring Programs:

Note: Ensure all samples are properly collected, labeled, stored and transported and employ good record-keeping.

Introduction: Personal hygiene is essential anytime a sample is collected. In order to prevent contamination of the sample or the surrounding products and area, aseptic technique must be employed at all times. For all sample collection procedures hands must be cleaned and sanitized before collecting the sample and gloves must be worn. The human body has natural skin flora which commonly includes yeasts, molds, and bacteria and care must be taken to ensure minimal risk of sample contamination. Samples to be analyzed should be collected periodically throughout the production time as to give a more accurate representation of air quality and to identify times or processes where contamination is high. The establishment generally defines the sample location.

Sampling and Interpretation Guidelines:

I. Set the agar plate on a new, clean paper towel, with the agar side down, at the location to be sampled.
II. Remove the plate's lid and without inverting, set it beside the agar plate.
III. After fifteen minutes, replace the lid, invert the plate and label the agar side with the sample location, time, and date of collection.
IV. Return agar plates to the bag which they were received in with the agar side up and close the top with a rubber band. Store refrigerated. The lab should receive the agar plates within one day of collection.
V. Results: The enumerated counts for all air quality tests are a representative estimate of colony forming units (CFU) per fifteen feet squared per 15 min or CFU/15 ft^2/15 min.
VI. Air Plate Guide: See Table On Page 2

Requested Test	Test Code	Method Ref.	Reporting Units	Std. Turnaround	Agar Plate To Use
Yeast/Mold	Y/M-Air	FDA-BAM ch.18	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	5	Yeast/Mold Agar
Aerobic Plate Count	APC-Air	AOAC 966.23	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	2	Std. Methods Agar (SM
E. coli	EC-Air	Standard Methods	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	2	MacConkey Agar
Coliforms	CC-Air	Standard Methods	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	1	MacConkey Agar
E. coli/Coliforms	EC/CC-Air	Standard Methods	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	2	MacConkey Agar
Staphylococcus aureus	SA-Air	AOAC 975.55	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	2	Baird Parker Agar
Staphylococcus species	STAPH-Air	AOAC 975.55	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	2	Baird Parker Agar
Listeria	Ls-Air	USDA MLG 8:11	CFU/15 ft²/15 min.	2	Mox Agar