

**United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service, Science & Technology
Microbiological Data Program**

SOP No.: MDP-QA-02		Page 1 of 7
Title: Proficiency Test Samples		
Revision: Original	Replaces: N/A	Effective: 09/01/01

1. Purpose:

To provide standard procedures for the analysis of proficiency samples by all laboratories participating in the USDA/AMS Microbiological Data Program (MDP).

2. Scope:

This standard operating procedure (SOP) shall be followed by all laboratories conducting microbiological studies for MDP, including support laboratories conducting non-routine activities that may impact the program.

3. Outline of Procedure:

- 5.1 Equipment and Materials
- 5.2 Media and Reagents
- 5.3 Receipt of Sample
- 5.4 Methods
 - a. Wash method
 - b. *Escherichia coli*
 - c. *Salmonella* (screening and cultural)
- 5.5 Results
- 5.6 Testing Proficiency Samples

4. References:

- Work plan For Microbiological Data Program Pilot Study, August 25, 1999.
 - MDP-LABOP-02, Sample Wash Procedures.
 - MDP-MTH-01, *Escherichia coli* MPN Method.
 - MDP-MTH-02, *Salmonella* VIDAS[®] Method.
 - MDP-MTH-03, *Salmonella* Cultural Method.
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5. Specific Procedures:

5.1 Equipment and Materials

- a. The equipment and materials in MDP-LABOP-02, Sample Wash Procedures.
- b. The equipment and materials in MDP-MTH-01, *Escherichia coli* MPN Method.
- c. The equipment and materials in MDP-MTH-02, *Salmonella* VIDAS[®] Method.
- d. The equipment and materials in MDP-MTH-03, *Salmonella* Cultural Method.

5.2 Media and Reagents

- a. The media and reagents in MDP-LABOP-02, Sample Wash Procedures.
- b. The media and reagents in MDP-MTH-01, *Escherichia coli* MPN Method.
- c. The media and reagents in MDP-MTH-02, *Salmonella* VIDAS[®] Method.
- d. The media and reagents in MDP-MTH-03, *Salmonella* Cultural Method.

5.3 Receipt of Sample

- a. See MDP-LABOP-02, Sample Wash Procedures.
 - b. The entire sample received will be analyzed regardless of commodity unless the sample is spoiled.
 - c. If a sample does not arrive in acceptable condition, contact the Quality Assurance Manager, USDA, AMS, S&T, Eastern Laboratory, telephone number: 704-867-3873.
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5.4 Methods

a. Wash method

Follow the method as outlined in MDP-LABOP-02, Sample Wash Procedures.

b. *E. coli*

Follow the method as outlined in MDP-MTH-01, *Escherichia coli* MPN Method.

c. *Salmonella*

1. Follow the method as outlined in MDP-MTH-02, *Salmonella* VIDAS[®] Method.

2. Follow the method as outlined in MDP-MTH-03, *Salmonella* Cultural Method.

5.5 Results

a. Record results on a copy of the attached chart. Fax results to Technical Services Branch Chief, USDA, AMS, S&T, 202-720-4631.

b. Retain a copy of results for laboratory records.

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5.6 Testing Proficiency Samples

- a. Proficiency samples will be received and tested semiannually.
- b. They should be analyzed in the same manner as regular samples.



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