



CDC and ISO 11731 *Legionella* Methods Comparison



	CDC Method	ISO 11731 Method
Sample Hold Time/Shipping	No hold time. Samples should be refrigerated if not processed within 72 hours from collection.	48 hour hold time. Samples should be received by the lab within 24 hours of collection to be processed within 48 hours after sample collection.
Sample Shipping Temperature	Samples should be refrigerated. Samples should be shipped in insulated coolers to protect against extreme heat or cold.	Ambient temp shipping is allowed. Samples should be shipped in insulated coolers to protect against extreme heat or cold.
Sample Temperature in the Lab	If samples cannot be processed within 72 hours they should be refrigerated.	If not processed immediately upon receipt, samples should be refrigerated at 6°C +/- 2°C
Pre-Treatment	Non-potable samples are direct plated with and w/o acid-treatment. Potable samples are filter concentrated with acid-treatment only if overgrowth of plated sample occurs.	All samples (potable and non-potable) are filter concentrated. Aliquots are left untreated, acid treated and heat treated prior to plating.
<i>Legionella</i> Confirmation	Growth on BCYE agar containing iron and L- Cysteine incubated for 24 hours.	Growth on BCYE agar containing iron and L-Cysteine incubated for 48 hours.
<i>Legionella</i> Identification	Latex Agglutination or Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA)	Direct Fluorescent Antibody (DFA)
Incubation Time	Examine plates on days 4 and 7. If new <i>Legionella</i> growth is seen on day 7, then incubate for 10 days.	Examine plates on days 4, 7 and 10. Positive results may be reported on day 7 but plates must be incubated for 10 days to confirm a negative result.