



Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit

The final date for return of results is indicated on the accompanying request/report form

Contact details:

The Organisers - FEPTU
Public Health England
61 Colindale Avenue,
London, NW9 5EQ, UK.
Fax: +44 (0) 20 8200 8264
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8327 7119
e-mail: foodeqa@phe.gov.uk



Results to be returned via an online survey
as per email sent to your laboratory

Shiga Toxin producing *Escherichia coli* Scheme – Instruction Sheet

The distribution consists of two LENTICULE® discs in screw-cap plastic vials (with desiccant).
The LENTICULE discs require reconstitution by a process of re-hydration and dispersion prior to examination.

The samples contain whole but non-viable STEC organisms and therefore can be handled within a containment level 2 facility wearing the appropriate personal safety equipment.

The STEC organism has been deactivated using a formalin solution. The formalin concentration in the sample is extremely low and should not affect the results obtained with the molecular assays being used.

Refer also to the Safety Data Sheet: www.gov.uk/government/publications/safety-data-sheet-for-lenticules

Storage:

- Store the samples at **-20 ± 5°C** on receipt.
- Allow the LENTICULE discs to reach ambient temperature (5 - 10 minutes) **before** rehydrating in diluent.

Reconstitution:

- Open the sample container and transfer the LENTICULE disc into **1 mL diluent** (e.g. MRD).
- Leave at ambient temperature for a minimum of 20 minutes to rehydrate.
- Ensure that the LENTICULE disc has completely rehydrated and disperse the inoculum by inverting approximately 30 times. Please note that on occasions a small artefact may be observed due to the interaction of the formalin with the bovine serum in the sample. Continue to process the samples if this is seen as this will not affect your tests results.

Processing:

- Each reconstituted sample is equivalent to a 1 mL of enriched sample.
- Undertake sample examination between 30 - 45 minutes of rehydration.
- Examine in accordance with your routine procedures from the enrichment stage of the sample process.

Return of Results:

- Return results to the organisers before the deadline shown on the request/report form.