

# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM



# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM

To protect public health and comply with food safety regulations, testing for the presence of potentially harmful microorganisms is crucial.

Foodborne illnesses caused by pathogens or spoilage can have serious consequences for consumers and brands alike.



## Our Services

Microbiological testing demands significant expertise not available to most food producers and therefore a third-party laboratory is utilized to undertake the analysis and minimize the risk of cross contamination. Your choice of partner is particularly important to ensure that accurate and reliable results are delivered on an ongoing basis by a trusted provider, such as Intertek.

From our state-of-the-art ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory, our experienced microbiologists test the full range of potentially harmful foodborne microorganisms, including pathogens like Salmonella, E. coli and Listeria, along with spoilage organisms such as yeasts and molds.

Our specialists can also develop and carry out shelf-life and challenge testing for your products. Our testing services help to ensure that products are safe to consume and free from harmful microorganisms once they reach the market. We test the full product lifecycle, starting from when the packaging is opened to analysis of the product under 'normal' conditions commonly referred to as direct testing.

We constantly review and update our testing methodologies to keep pace with the ever-evolving threats posed by foodborne microorganism throughout the supply chain to help you deliver safe quality products to your customers

## With You All the Way

Microbiological testing is just one of many services we can provide to ensure the safety and quality of your products. Intertek food laboratories can offer a full range of food testing services that include allergen, GMO, food authenticity, food contamination, nutrition labelling and shelf life.

## We can also assist with:

- Risk Management: improve performance, reduce risk, and free up valuable resources
- Traceability through supply chains: including raw and semi-manufactured foodstuffs and final products in all food categories and special interest products
- Global Coverage: network of highly skilled and experienced experts to ensure smooth transition in the supply chain.

## Environmental micro swabbing

The purpose of micro swabbing is to detect the presence of microorganisms that could cause infections. To help our customers, we have available an environmental micro swabbing kit:

What to do with my swabs?

### 1. Swabbing

- Selected food preparation areas are swabbed and sent to our New Orleans, Louisiana lab in the US or Saskatoon, Saskatchewan lab in Canada
- Shipped in a chilled envelope or ice chest to reach the laboratory by the next business day

### 2. Chilling

- Swabs must be chilled upon shipping
- Heat will contaminate the results

### 3. Deliver

- Swabs should be received by one of our labs within 48 hours of swabbing the surface areas
- Swab testing must begin within 72 hours

### 4. Notify

- Sender will be notified by email as soon as the returned kit is received at the laboratory
- Testing begins immediately upon arrival

- One swab is needed for each analysis per surface area being tested
- Kit will be shipped to your location by the next business day (for most destinations).
- Will come in either an ice chest or chilled envelope with instructions for the swabbing protocol, which includes marking each swab with the surface area being tested.
- Swabs are shipped out cold, so overseas shipments will be packed in a Styrofoam cooler (ice chest) with cold freezer packs
- We do not accept the returning of unused swabs

## Why Choose Intertek?

Intertek is a partner you can trust for this critical service. With our experience and expertise, you can rest easy that your customers and brand are protected, and you fully comply with all relevant food safety regulations.

Our microbiological testing services are part of a global network of food testing facilities. We blend local expertise with world-class talent to help you navigate local, national, and international regulations

Our specialists can deliver reliable results with fast turnaround times, essential for maintaining your standards and credibility.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



+1 888 400 0084



cbwnalabs@intertek.com



intertek.com/food/testing/  
microbiology