



TECH NOTES

Environmental Swabbing For Food Safety

Why Perform Environmental Swabbing?

Microorganisms are always present in food handling environments. Some microorganisms are usually introduced into the food environment through raw materials, water and even employees. Monitoring of the cleanliness of surfaces becomes necessary for many industrial applications. McCoy & McCoy Laboratories, Inc. (MMLI) has developed an "environmental swabbing" service. The service provides a professional environmental scientist to meet with the customer to develop a cleanliness monitoring program tailored to the facility and its processes. Swabs will be collected on selected areas at the client's facility and testing performed by either on-site screening or taken to our laboratory for certified testing. The list of microorganisms we can measure ranges from; *Listeria* sp, *Salmonella* spp., Aerobic Plate Count, etc.).



How To Get Started

The process starts with a simple phone call or email to one of our Project Managers or Sales Executives. We will discuss your goals and develop a service agreement for your approval. An onsite review with one of our environmental specialists will acquaint ourselves with your processes and determine if the testing will meet your goals is essential for a successful testing program.

Testing

MMLI has the means to screen for some microorganisms while on-site. This can provide data for emergency cleaning processes and target an area for continued monitoring. For conventional swabs, once they arrive in our laboratory, they are immediately logged into our Laboratory Information Management System. Once logged in, you will receive a sample receipt notification that outlines all pertinent information such as analyses requested, collection times, and sample description. All testing is performed in our nationally accredited laboratory. Each analysis is performed under a rigorous quality control program using EPA, FDA, AOAC and/or ISO quality assurance protocols.



Reporting

Any positive contamination results are immediately communicated to the client via phone or email. Final analytical reports are sent by e-mail along with an invoice in about 5 days.

It's that easy to begin an environmental swabbing program that can protect your company!



ISO/IEC
17025:2005
Accredited

