

## **ADDENDUM TO THE NEW MICROBIOLOGY TEST METHODS FOR *E. COLI***

ELAP has received several inquiries concerning the sample holding time for *E. coli* under the State Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR) (adopted 1-12-2008).

For *E. coli*, the Sanitation and Radiation Laboratory and Microbial Diseases Laboratory have determined that the *E. coli* sample holding time and temperature under the Federal Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) [40 CFR parts 141.704(b)(1), (2), and (3)] may be used for the *E. coli* samples collected under the State IESWTR [section 64655(b)]. The sample holding time and temperature requirements from the federal LT2ESWTR are summarized below.

- **Sample Holding Time** – The time from sample collection to initiation of analysis may not exceed 30 hours unless the water system meets the following conditions:
  - (1) The State <sup>(a)</sup> may approve on a case-by-case basis the holding of an *E. coli* sample for up to 48 hours between sample collection and initiation of analysis if the State determines that analyzing an *E. coli* sample within 30 hours is not feasible.
    - (a) “State” means the California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, District Office or Local Primacy Agency that has jurisdiction over the water system.
  - (2) *E. coli* samples held between 30 to 48 hours must be analyzed by the Colilert reagent version of Standard Method 9223B as listed in 40 CFR part 136.3(a) [see Table IH – List of Approved Microbiological Methods for Ambient Water].
- **Sample Temperature** – Water systems must maintain samples between 0°C and 10°C during storage and transit to the laboratory.

This information is an addendum to the New Microbiology Test Methods for *E. Coli* announcement recently posted in the “What’s New” section of the ELAP web site and is intended for the purpose of clarification. The original announcement is available through the following link:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/labs/Documents/ELAPMicroMethods>.

Should you have any questions, please go to the ELAP home page or contact ELAP headquarters at 510 620 3155.

Please note that the regulatory holding times are maximum times and that good laboratory practices dictate that the sooner a sample is analyzed, the better the result. A sample should be analyzed on the day that it is received by the laboratory.