

## **Compressed Air Testing Protocol**

The concept in testing the compressed air is to determine the microbiological content of the compressed air. There is no established regulatory standard for the microbiological load present in the compressed air. However, there should be no bacteria, mold, or yeast present in the compressed air system that blows onto product contact surfaces.

1. Two people are needed to test the compressed air system in a work environment, one to hold the Petri dish and the second to operate the compressed air line.
2. The Petri dish should be held about three (3) feet from the discharge end of the compressed air line. Do not hold the Petri dish any closer or the growth media will likely be blown out of the dish by the force of the compressed air.
3. The person holding the Petri dish should remove the cover from the dish and hold the dish perpendicular to the path of the compressed air flow. 
4. The person operating the compressed air line should activate the compressed air line and have it immediately directed toward the open Petri dish. Let the compressed air blow on the dish for about 5 seconds and turn it off.
5. Place the Petri dish cover back on the base containing the media immediately after the compressed air is turned off and tape them shut to contain any bacteria or mold that may grow. Use only 2 or 3 pieces of clear tape to hold them closed. Please do not use masking tape or other opaque tape. (Refer to Environmental Petri Dishes Protocol for additional instructions).
6. The control and tested dishes should be shipped back to the PCI laboratory ASAP by overnight courier & should not be shipped on Friday for weekend delivery to ensure proper incubation time and temperature of dishes.



**PACKAGING CONSULTANTS  
INTERNATIONAL**

**1101 State Fair Boulevard, Syracuse, New York 13209**

**Tel: (315) 468-6234 Fax: (315) 468-6235**

[www.pcilabs.com](http://www.pcilabs.com) · [kate@pcilabs.com](mailto:kate@pcilabs.com) · [tim@pcilabs.com](mailto:tim@pcilabs.com) · [patrick@pcilabs.com](mailto:patrick@pcilabs.com)