



PACKAGING CONSULTANTS INTERNATIONAL



Laboratory Certificate #36-B-00155

August 2021

RE: Water Testing

This letter is to inform you that Packaging Consultant International's (PCI) has added Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) & Enzyme Substrate Coliform/E. coli detection in water to our ISO 17025 scope of accreditation & our Interstate Milk Shipper's (IMS) listing utilizing methods from *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 23rd ed., American Public Health Association, 2017.

This accreditation applies to potable water testing, performed using poured medium in a Petri dish for the HPC, which is like the Standard Plate Count (SPC) procedure PCI has performed for years, only differing in the incubation temperature (35°C instead of 32°C). We also added SPC to our scope of accreditation which utilizes methods from *Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products*, 17th ed., American Public Health Association, 2004, like most of our most frequently performed packaging test methods.

PCI will subsequently be more stringent with the acceptance parameters of water samples to meet the requirements of the reference method and IMS certification to ensure valid test results. Samples shall be collected in sterile bottles of sufficient size (>100 mL) containing a dechlorination agent. (PCI provides collection bottles upon request). The exterior of water sample shipment boxes must be labeled to indicate that they contain time-sensitive water samples. The shipment shall be accompanied by a Sample Submission Form, a Temperature Control (TC), and be maintained at a temperature between 0.0-4.5°C during transit which will be verified upon PCI receipt. However, samples shall not be frozen. All samples must be received by PCI within 30 hours of collection. Date and time of collection for each sample must be indicated on the sample bottle and/or Submission Form. Any samples not meeting these requirements will need to be re-sampled or will include a disclaimer on the test report of potential result invalidity if testing is requested to commence by a representative from your organization under the conditions as received.

Due to the additional expenses related to the supplies required to comply with these validated methods, PCI has increased the fees associated to perform these tests. We will continue to provide sample collection materials upon request as we have in the past. However, samples must be shipped surrounded by ice since ice packs have not maintained sufficient sample temperatures during shipment.

We look forward to working with you for these microbiological services. Please contact us at customerservice@pcilabs.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Rice
Laboratory/Quality Manager

1101 State Fair Boulevard
Syracuse, New York 13209
Tel: (315) 468-6234 Fax: (315) 468-6235

www.pcilabs.com

customerservice@pcilabs.com · shalene@pcilabs.com · patrick@pcilabs.com · melissa@pcilabs.com