NEW MICROBIOLOGY TEST METHODS FOR E. COLI

Under section 64655(b) of the proposed Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR), public water systems using an approved surface water source (i.e., surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water) will be required to monitor the raw water supply for total coliform and either fecal coliform or E. coli bacteria using density analysis no less than once each month.

For E. coli, the Sanitation and Radiation Laboratory and Microbial Diseases Laboratory have determined that E. coli methods for enumeration under 40 CFR 136.3(a) are suitable for E. coli enumeration under section 64655(b) of the proposed IESWTR.

The E. coli test methods as cited in 40 CFR 136.3(a), Table IH - List of Approved Microbiological Methods for Ambient Water are:

- SM92223B (18th, 19th or 20th ed)
- SM9221B.1/SM9221F (18th, 19th, or 20th ed)
- SM9222B/SM9222G (18th, 19th, or 20th ed)
- m-ColiBlue24

A formal announcement of the effective date of new regulations will be forthcoming.

How to Apply

- An amendment application and fees must be submitted to our Richmond office. Both signed hard-copy and electronic versions of ELAP FOT or FOA forms must also be submitted.

- A PE sample must be successfully analyzed for ELAP laboratories. NELAP laboratories must successfully analyze two out of three PT samples.

- A copy of your SOP and a demonstration of capability must be submitted to your current ELAP Assessor for review. ELAP reserves the right to conduct a visit of your facilities at our discretion.

Should you need assistance or additional information, please contact your current ELAP assessor or Richmond Headquarters (510 620 3155).