

# Zalco Laboratories Sampling Guidelines - Bacteriological

## Before obtaining your samples, read the following directions:

### Storage of Containers:

- § Before use, store containers in a clean, dry area, avoiding extreme temperatures.

### Labeling of Containers:

- § Clearly identify the sample with the following information:
  - Unique sample identification
  - Client name
  - Sample site, or location
  - Sample date and time

### Handling of Containers:

- § Samples should be protected from light and heat at all times. They should be kept cool, using blue ice or wet ice, and delivered as soon as possible to the laboratory. Some tests require immediate analyses.
- § Never overflow the bottles as they may contain chemicals that must remain in the sample
- § Caution should be taken when sampling. Some bottles contain concentrated acids or bases. Avoid contact with skin and inhalation of vapors. If you should come in contact with these corrosives, wash thoroughly with water for 15 minutes.

### Specific Containers: *100 ml sterile plastic bottle with Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (powder)*

- § Use sample containers provided by laboratory:
- § Flame the mouth of the water outlet, or wipe it thoroughly with a disinfectant (such as bleach, or alcohol)
- § Allow the water to flow for at least 5 minutes prior to collecting the sample.
- § Open the bottle only as long as necessary to collect sample. Avoid touching the inside of the cap and bottle with your hand or the faucet. Fill the bottle to the 100 ml "fill line." Replace the bottle cap immediately after sampling.
- § Samples must be delivered to laboratory, on ice, within 24 hours of sampling (or 6 hours for non-drinking water samples).
- § Store at 4° C until transported to the laboratory
- § Include a completed Chain of Custody (COC) with the sample. Please include the following on the COC:
  - Field sample identification
  - Location, date and time of collection
  - Collector's name
  - Preservation type, (Including "No Preservation"
  - Sample type (water, soil, sludge, etc.)
  - Any additional information, if necessary

**If you need further assistance, please call our Client Services department at (661) 395-0539.**