



Sample Submission Guidelines: Food Microbiology and Food Chemistry Analysis



1. Submit sufficient amount of samples
 - **Food Microbiology**
 - i. Quantitative Analysis (Reported as CFU/g or CFU/ml)
 - a) 50g minimum food or a single sponge/swab sample (all quantitative tests can be performed from a single sponge/swab).
 - b) Examples: Aerobic Plate Count, Coliform/*E. coli*, Yeast/Mold.
 - c) Note: Environmental samples containing Neutralizing buffer or D/E Neutralizing broth are not compatible with Petrifilm analysis; Contact Sales representative to inquire about Petrifilm-compatible sponges/swabs.
 - ii. Qualitative Analysis (Reported as Present or Absent)
 - a) 25g minimum or single sponge/swab for each pathogen testing.
 - b) Examples: *Listeria*, *Salmonella*, *E. coli* O157:H7.
 - **Food Allergen**
 - i. 5g minimum or single swab for each allergen test.
 - **Food Chemistry**
 - i. Required amount depends on specific tests.
 - ii. Contact Sales Representative for specific amount required for each test.
2. Fill out a Chain of Custody (COC)
 - Ensure that the sample description on the COC matches the labels on the samples.
 - Ensure that the appropriate test codes are assigned to each sample.
 - Composite sampling – Indicate any requirement for composite testing, if applicable.
 - Dilution requirement – Indicate any requirement for additional dilutions and/or specific limits for each test.
3. Sample packing/shipping
 - Ship samples in an insulated cooler, with ice packs, for overnight delivery; Do not use ice cubes.
 - Ambient samples do not require ice packs; however, exposure to extreme temperature should be avoided.

Improper packaging of samples may compromise the quality and integrity of laboratory-generated data. EMSL Analytical, Inc reserves the right to reject samples if sample integrity or staff safety is in question.