

# **IDEXX**

## **Literature Cover Sheet**

**IDEXX Library #:** 5S

**Topic:** Colilert<sup>®</sup>/Colisure<sup>™</sup> New Zealand Approval

**Author:** Dr. Michael Taylor, Senior Advisor, Environment Public Health Policy and Regulation, New Zealand Ministry of Health

**Date:** December 3, 1997

**Source:** Letter from the New Zealand Ministry of Health

**Highlights:**

- Colilert is approved for compliance testing drinking water derived from surface and ground waters.
- Colisure is approved for testing drinking water from surface waters.
- “Presence/absence tests provide an attractive option for minimising (sic) the cost of monitoring faecal (sic) coliforms.”



MANAHI HAORA

3 December 1997

Environmental Diagnostics  
PO Box 100 817  
NSMC  
AUCKLAND

Attention Mr Rob Fullerton

Dear Mr Fullerton

#### **RAPID PRESENCE/ABSENCE TESTS FOR *E. COLI***

This communication identifies the presence/absence tests which the Ministry of Health currently recognises as providing an acceptable alternative to the referee analytical method for faecal coliforms that is specified in *Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand 1995*. Copies have been sent to public health services and local authorities.

To demonstrate compliance with the *Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand 1995* the water in a community drinking-water supply must meet the microbiological requirements of these Standards for 95% of the time. For the Priority 1 determinand faecal coliforms, this requires at least 59 faecal coliform tests each year, ie, more than one test each week, before it is possible to be 95% confident that this is being achieved. (Section 3.2, *Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality Management for New Zealand*).

Presence/absence tests provide an attractive option for minimising the cost of monitoring faecal coliforms. However, before such methods can be used as an acceptable alternative to the prescribed referee methods, they must first have been validated against these referee methods. (Section 3.4.4.1, *Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand 1995*).

Colilert<sup>®</sup>, Colisure<sup>®</sup> and Hach<sup>®</sup> tests carried out in accordance with *Protocol for Drinking-Water Monitoring Programmes based on Rapid Test Systems such as Colilert<sup>®</sup>/Colisure<sup>®</sup>*, have been demonstrated to meet the criteria of validation against the referee methods specified in the *Drinking-Water Standards for New Zealand 1995*, Wellington, to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Health, as specified in Table 1.

Not all methods can be used for all waters. Table 1 shows which methods have been validated for surface waters, roof water and groundwater.

133 Moleworth St  
P.O. Box 5013  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Phone (04) 496 2000  
Fax (04) 496 2340

Ref. No

PH20-21-3

**Table 1 Applicability of Colilert<sup>®</sup>, Colisure<sup>®</sup> and Hach<sup>®</sup> P/A tests**

	drinking-water derived from surface waters	drinking-water derived from ground waters	drinking-water derived from roof waters
<b>TEST:</b>			
<b>Colilert<sup>®</sup></b>	✓	✓	-
<b>Colisure<sup>®</sup></b>	✓	-	-
<b>Hach<sup>®</sup></b>	✓	✓	✓

Yours faithfully



Dr Michael Taylor  
Senior Advisor, Environment  
Public Health Policy and Regulation

cc:

Environmental Diagnostics Ltd  
Biolab Scientific Ltd  
All public health providers  
All TA EHCs  
NZWWA