

EPA Region 4 (Science and Ecosystem Support Division) Approval of Colilert-18 for the Detection and Enumeration of Fecal Coliforms in Wastewater Samples	
No.	Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Policy
1	Introduction The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division approves the use of IDEXX Colilert-18 for the detection and enumeration of fecal coliforms in wastewater samples as an Alternate Test Procedure (ATP) until it has been formally promulgated nationally as part of 40 CFR Part 136 under the Clean Water Act. All wastewater facilities seeking interim use of this product must submit their proposal in writing to Region 4. Also, strict adherence to the following guidelines must be taken.
2	Guidelines A. This ATP is only for Colilert-18 for the analysis of fecal coliforms in wastewater. B. Laboratory must refer to "Colilert-18 Fecal Coliform Protocol Addendum" found on IDEXX's website or see Attachment A. http://www.idexx.com/pubwebresources/pdf/en_us/water/colilert18-fecal-coliform-protocol-addendum.pdf C. If foaming occurs, after the addition of Colilert-18 to the sample, then add Antifoam solution (IDEXX part #WAFDB) to sample. Alternatively, allow the sample to sit for several minutes prior to adding it to a Quanti-Tray. D. Place sealed tray in a 44.5 °C ± 0.2 °C incubator for 18-22 hours. The usual prewarming to 35 °C is not required since the sample is first placed in the Quant-tray sealer prior to incubation. (Note: Temperature was increased from 35 °C to 44.5 °C to facilitate fecal coliform growth rather than total coliform.) E. Do not place trays in plastic bags if using a water bath, but place trays directly in the water using the appropriate size weights. (Examples of proper weights include the round lead rings used to weigh down Erlenmyer flasks immersed in water baths.) F. When reading results, count the number of yellow wells for positive fecal results. Note: This method is only approved for Fecal Coliform counts.

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3	Review of Colilert-18 Method by the EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) The EPA OGWDW, ATP Coordinator for the Clean Water Act, Robin Oshiro, determined that the performance of this method is substantially similar to methods listed at 40 CFR Part 136 for measurement of fecal coliforms. It is recommended that this method be included in future regulatory actions in which EPA periodically adds to the list of approved methods t 40 CFR Part 136.3. In the interim a user may on a facility-by-facility basis, seek approval from their regional authority for use of this method in Clean Water Act (CWA) programs.
4	Contact All questions, comments and submittals should be directed to: Marilyn Maycock, QA Section Chief EPA Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division Quality Assurance Section 980 College Station Road Athens, Georgia 30605-2720 <i>Telephone:</i> (706) 355-8553 <i>Email address:</i> Maycock.Marilyn@epa.gov Viola Reynolds, Microbiologist EPA Region 4 Science and Ecosystem Support Division Quality Assurance Section 980 College Station Road Athens, Georgia 30605-2720 <i>Telephone:</i> (706) 355-8569 <i>Email address:</i> Reynolds.Viola@epa.gov