



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Environmental Conservation

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# MEMORANDUM

TO: All Certified Drinking Water  
Microbiology Labs

DATE: October 31, 2022

FROM: Patryce D. McKinney, MBA  
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory  
Alaska SDWA Certification Authority

SUBJECT: IDEXX products pH Memo

This memo clarifies an update on the Quality Control requirements for IDEXX media.

The EPA Laboratory Certification Manual for Drinking Water, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (LCM) Chapter V, Section 5.1.6.3 says "For media prepared commercially, the date received, type of medium, lot number and (if identified by the manufacturer or method) pH verification for each lot should be recorded." Previously, the pH of IDEXX products hasn't been listed on the manufacturer's Certificate of Analysis (COA), making the performing and recording of a pH verification for these media not required. However, IDEXX now identifies the pH range on the COA. The EPA has indicated that the pH of Colilert, Colilert-18, Colisure, and SimPlate medias now needs to be verified and recorded for all new lots of media.

The EPA is suggesting laboratories dissolve a pack of media in 100mL of sterile water (10mL for SimPlate Unit Dose) to test the pH. The pH verification will then need to be recorded and maintained as part of the initial QC on new lots of media. Per the LCM Chapter V section 3.1, the laboratory will need a pH meter with an accuracy and scale graduations within  $\pm 0.1$  units, buffers for calibration of the meter and sterile water to dissolve the media for pH testing.

Please take this as a reminder to review any other commercial media COAs to ensure there have not been other manufacturer changes.

All laboratories will need to comply with this memo by January 1, 2023. The pH verification for these media will be reviewed as part of the on-site audits for all labs certified to use these media.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [DEClabcert@alaska.gov](mailto:DEClabcert@alaska.gov) or call 907-375-8200.

Thank you.