

Heater Cooler Unit Water Collection/Shipping Guidelines



Sample: Water from heater/cooler unit.

Method: Quantitative culture for heterotrophic bacteria and non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM).

Collection:

1. Collect 100 mL of water in a sterile plastic bottle containing sodium thiosulfate.
2. Maintain samples at 2-8° C after collection.

Shipping:

1. Clearly label each sample with a Sample Number and complete the Chain of Custody (COC).
2. Place sample in a Ziploc bag and then in a box with an insulated foam liner and ice pack.
3. Insert the completed COC form into a plastic sleeve or Ziploc bag and place in box.
4. Ship samples Monday through Thursday (12 noon) for receipt within 24 hours of collection.

Sample Non-conformances:

- Frozen
- >24 hours from collection to analysis time
- Not received on ice