

BULK, Test Code 1035-Stachybotrys Culture, Direct Microscopic Examination & Total Fungal Count with Identification

The profile includes a *Stachybotrys* culture, fungal culture and direct microscopic examination.

Stachybotrys is a toxigenic fungus that is commonly recovered from chronically wetted cellulose-based materials. Due to its toxigenicity, it has been linked to health problems in contaminated buildings and should be treated prudently and in accordance with recommended abatement guidelines.

Bulk samples are indicated when obvious microbial growth is apparent and when enumeration of the organisms may be relevant in cases of workplace-related illness. This is considered the primary sample and should always be submitted when possible, over a swab. The assessment of microorganisms may be useful in evaluating the hygienic status of a particular environment and the viable culture allows for genus and speciation. The direct microscopic examination portion of this profile allows for identification of all fungal spores that may not grow on viable culture.

1. Samples should be collected when the material is porous and swabbing is not practical. Given the choice of sending the primary reservoir and swabbing the material, the bulk sample is always preferable.
2. 25 to 50 grams is the preferred amount needed for the culture. The sample can be placed in a Ziploc® bag for transportation. Heavily contaminated material should be double bagged.
3. Bulk samples can be shipped by overnight, ground or by regular mail. Submit in cooler with ice pack during warmer months.

References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 5.2.6.1: 57-58 (2005).

Macher, Janet, Sc.D., M.P.H., Bioaerosols , 12.1-12.1.4.2 (1999).