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## **Bulk, Test Code 1063 -Legionella Culture**

Legionnaire's disease caused *Legionella pneumophila* is one of the most challenging building acquired diseases in the industrial hygiene community. According to CDC, over a year 8000 - 18,000 cases are estimated to be caused by *Legionella*. Most of the cases reported are sporadic and nosocomial infections.

*Legionella* are gram-negative rods and require selective media to grow. These are mesophilic bacteria (35- 37°C). To date, there is 48 known species of *Legionella* and about 70 serogroups have been recognized to causes diseases in humans. The most common species of legionella that causes legionnaire's disease is *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1.

Bulk samples can be tested for *Legionella*. Often samples are sludge from the bottom of a condensate pan or scraped off a cooling coil.

1. Samples should be collected when the material is porous and swabbing is not practical.
2. 25 to 50 grams is the preferred amount needed for the culture. The sample can be placed in a Ziploc® bag or specimen container for transportation.
3. Bulk samples can be shipped ground and by regular mail, no ice pack is needed for these samples

### **References:**

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[http://www.cti.org/downloads/legion\\_2000.pdf](http://www.cti.org/downloads/legion_2000.pdf), Cooling Technology Institute, (2000).

[http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/sampling\\_sites.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/legionella/sampling_sites.htm), Centers for Disease Control, (2006)