

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories	
Test Name	Coliform Count Method
PHL Location	Amite Regional Laboratory
CPT Code	N/A
Synonyms	PCC, HSCC
Brief Description of Test	Used for enumeration of coliform colonies of a given sample in finished (pasteurized) milk and dairy products.
Possible Results	Number of colonies per ml or gm
Reference Range	For all pasteurized milk and dairy products <1 per ml or gm to 10 per ml or gm
Specimen Type	All Pasteurized milk and dairy products
Specimen Container(s):	Finished fluid milk and dairy products are collected in the container in which they are sold at the retail outlet.
Minimum volume accepted:	Finished fluid milk and dairy products: at least a half pint (when collecting at this volume two samples are required to insure enough volume for all testing)
Collection Instructions	Collect a representative sample according to established protocol
Storage and Transport Instructions	Samples must be stored on wet ice, the ice cannot cover the sample top and there must not be any water over the top of the sample at anytime. The sample must be transported in a timely manner so that testing can be performed prior to 60 hours of collection. Samples must be accompanied with a pilot sample of the same type and size for raw samples and at least ½ the size of the largest container for finished fluid products. The temperature pilot must be from 0.0- 4.5C upon receipt.
Causes for Rejection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Temperature of pilot samples out of acceptable range. 2. Time of receipt >60 hours from time of collection 3. Sample container unprotected or under ice or water when received. 4. Sample frozen or has ice crystals 5. Temperature control missing 6. Sample leakage 7. Unsatisfactory sample container 8. Insufficient sample quantity

Limitations of the Procedure	This procedure does not provide the source of a high coliform bacteria count
Interfering Substances	The presence of any substance that interferes with bacteria count, i.e. disinfectants, chlorine, antibiotics
References	Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products FDA 2400 Series for the Examination of Dairy Products US FDA/CFSAN Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance Laboratory Milk and Dairy Products SOP Manual
Additional Information	A STARLIMS MDP Collection Manifest or a LAB50 must accompany the submission of samples. All samples and sample information should be pre-logged into the STARLIMS system, including Client Name, product type, container size, name of collector, collection date/time, and temperature of product at collection. A pilot temperature sample must be submitted for each ice chest if multiple ice chests are used.
Release Date	06/12/2019
Warning: If you have printed a copy of this information please be advised that the Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories website and methods are updated on a regular basis. Please check the on-line version of this document to ensure you are relying on the most recent release.	