

FARM NAME _____

Doc.No. **2.36**

Title: **Testing Procedures for Microbiological Testing***

Effective Date: _____

Reviewed by: _____ GAP Coordinator, Date: _____

Sampling Guidelines for Microbiological Sponges

1. Do not open the sponge pack until you are ready to start sampling.
2. Sponge samples should be taken just prior to shipping them to the laboratory for analysis.
3. Samples must be shipped for overnight delivery to laboratory.
4. Sampling:
 - a. Select the surface to be sampled (i.e. cooler wall, belt, drain, counter, etc.).
 - b. Write sample identification information on the outside of the speci-sponge bag (prior to opening).
 - c. The Speci-Sponge bag contains a sterile glove folded in a separate compartment below the sponge.
 - d. To use the glove, tear off the glove pack along the perforation. The glove is folded with the wrist end extended so it can be shaken open and put on without touching the hand area.
 - e. Put on the glove.
 - f. Squeeze out excess buffer from sponge, this can be done by squeezing the sponge with your sterile gloved hand after opening the bag.
 - g. Firmly swab the area, approximately one square meter and return the sponge to the labeled sampling bag.
 - h. Place samples in a cooler, with gel ice packs and ship via overnight delivery to the testing laboratory.

****Please note that 1 sponge needs to be submitted per bacteria requested****

* Waters Agricultural Laboratories, Inc.