Non-Pathogen Scheme – Instruction Sheet

**Each distribution consists of two evacuated glass vials containing mixtures of freeze-dried micro-organisms. The vial contents require reconstitution prior to examination.**

**Important information to note:**
You can now analyse and report up to three sets of results for any of the tests in the Non-Pathogen Scheme.


For a video on sample processing click on the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page:

**Storage:**
Store the samples at 2 - 8°C on receipt.

**Safety Recommendation:**
The samples contain micro-organisms of ACDP Hazard Groups 1 and 2. Your laboratory must undertake a risk assessment before handling these samples with particular consideration to the conditions and procedures for opening evacuated vials to prevent the risk of aerosol.

**Opening Vials:**
Remove the plastic tear-off seal by positioning the vial with the arrow on the plastic flip-top pointing away from you, flip the top up then carefully but deliberately pull downwards and to the right (or the left if you are left handed) until the seal separates; then still holding onto the plastic top, gently remove altogether and discard into a sharps container.

**Reconstitution:**
The samples are reconstituted in 100mL nutrient broth (pre-warmed to 30 ± 2°C) as follows:
- Aseptically remove the rubber stopper from the vial of the freeze-dried sample.
- Transfer approximately 1mL of the 100mL nutrient broth to the vial and allow to stand for 2 - 5 minutes.
- Transfer the vial contents back to the remaining nutrient broth.
- Rinse the vial a further 3 - 4 times with the 100mL nutrient broth sample.
- Shake the reconstituted samples before examination.

**Examination:**
- Each reconstituted sample is equivalent to a 100g food sample.
- Undertake the examinations listed on the request/report form within 45 minutes of reconstitution.
- Examine in accordance with routine procedures.

**Return of Results:**
- Return your results on-line using the web-based reporting system.
- Return results to the organisers before the deadline shown on the request/report form.
- Results returned after that date will **not** be assessed.