

Chapter ATCP 77

LABORATORY CERTIFICATION

Subchapter I — General Requirements

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Note: Chapter ATCP 77 as it existed on September 30, 1999, was repealed and a new chapter ATCP 77 was created, Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

Subchapter I — General Requirements

ATCP 77.01 Definitions. In this chapter:

- (1) "Analyst" means an individual who performs a test under s. ATCP 77.02.
 - (2) "Certified analyst" means an analyst that is certified by the department to perform tests under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2).
 - (3) "Certified laboratory" means a laboratory at which an operator is certified to perform tests under s. ATCP 77.02.
 - (4) "Department" means the state of Wisconsin department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.
 - (5) "FDA" means the United States department of health and human services, public health service, food and drug administration.
 - (6) "Food" has the meaning given in s. 97.01 (6), Stats.
 - (7) "Food safety administrator" means the administrator of the department's division of food safety.
 - (8) "Individual" means a natural person.
 - (9) "Laboratory" means a facility at which an operator performs tests.
 - (10) "Laboratory administrator" means an individual who supervises a laboratory under s. ATCP 77.12.
 - (11) "Milk" means the lacteal secretion of cows, sheep or goats, and includes dairy products made from milk.
 - (12) "Operator" means a person who owns or controls a laboratory.
 - (13) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, cooperative association, limited liability company, trust, or other organization or entity. "Person" includes counties, municipalities, the state of Wisconsin and agencies of the state.
 - (14) "Public health standard" means a federal, state or local statute, rule or ordinance which specifies a standard for the safety or wholesomeness of milk, water or food for human consumption.
 - (15) "Public water system laboratory" means a laboratory that tests water for a public water system as defined in NR 108.02 (12).
 - (16) "Test" means a laboratory examination of milk, water or food.
- History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.02 Laboratory tests to protect public health. For purposes of s. 93.12, Stats., the department declares that the following milk, water or food tests are necessary to protect public health:

- (1) MILK. Any of the following tests related to milk and dairy products:
 - (a) Standard plate count.

- (b) Plate loop count.
 - (c) Petrifilm aerobic count.
 - (d) Coliform plate count.
 - (e) Petrifilm coliform count.
 - (f) Charm BsDa.
 - (g) Charm I/ Cowside II.
 - (h) Charm II competitive.
 - (i) Charm II sequential.
 - (j) Charm II cloxacillin.
 - (k) Charm II sulfa.
 - (L) Charm II tetracycline.
 - (m) Delvotest P.
 - (n) Delvotest P 5 pack.
 - (o) LacTek B/L.
 - (p) LacTek ceftiofur.
 - (q) Penzyme milk.
 - (r) Penzyme III.
 - (s) SNAP B/L.
 - (t) Direct microscopic somatic cell count.
 - (u) Optical somatic cell count.
 - (v) Pasteurized milk containers.
 - (w) Phosphatase test; Scharer rapid method.
 - (x) Phosphatase test; fluorophos.
 - (y) Phosphatase test; Charm II.
 - (z) Tests performed to comply with ch. ATCP 60 or 80, other than milk component tests which are not related to public health.
- (2) FOOD. Any of the following tests related to food:
 - (a) Standard plate count.
 - (b) Plate loop count.
 - (c) Petrifilm aerobic count.
 - (d) Coliform plate count.
 - (e) Petrifilm coliform count.
 - (f) Other tests under ch. ATCP 75 to detect pathogens in food.
 - (3) WATER. Any of the following tests related to water:
 - (a) Multiple tube fermentation procedure (MTF).
 - (b) Membrane filter technique (MF).
 - (c) Enzymatic substrate (MMO-MUG).
 - (d) Clark's Presence/Absence (P/A).
 - (e) Heterotrophic plate count (HPC).
 - (f) Other tests under ch. NR 809 or 812 to detect microbiological contaminants in drinking water.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.03 Laboratory certification; general.

- (1) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION REQUIRED. No person may perform, at any laboratory, a test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 to determine whether milk, food or water complies with public health standards

required under federal or state law unless the department annually certifies the laboratory operator to perform that test at that laboratory. An annual certification expires on December 31 of each year.

(2) **SCOPE OF CERTIFICATION.** (a) A person who operates 2 or more laboratories shall obtain a separate certification under sub. (1) for each laboratory. A certification may not be transferred between operators or laboratories.

(c) The department shall identify, in each certification under sub. (1), the tests which the operator is certified to perform at that laboratory.

(3) **CERTIFICATE DISPLAYED.** An operator shall display, at a prominent location in each certified laboratory, the current certification issued for that laboratory under sub. (1).

(4) **EXEMPTIONS.** Subsection (1) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) The United States government.

(b) Milk testing by the department.

(c) An educational institution that operates a laboratory solely for teaching or academic research purposes, and does not test milk, water or food for human consumption.

(d) A person who operates a laboratory solely to conduct quality control tests on food or water sold by that person, provided that the tests are not required by statute, rule or ordinance.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.04 Applying for certification. (1) **INITIAL APPLICATION.** An operator shall apply for initial certification under s. ATCP 77.03 on a form provided by the department. The operator shall submit a separate application for each laboratory. An application shall include all of the following:

(a) The operator's correct legal name and address, and any trade names used by the operator. The application shall indicate whether the operator is an individual, corporation, partnership, cooperative association, limited liability company, trust, or other organization or entity.

(b) The name, address and telephone number of the laboratory.

(c) The name of the laboratory administrator under s. ATCP 77.12.

(d) The tests under s. ATCP 77.02 for which the operator seeks certification.

(e) Documentation that the laboratory is qualified to perform each test which the operator identifies under par. (d). Documentation shall include all of the following:

1. Proof that the laboratory has all of the equipment needed to perform each test.

2. Written test procedures used for each test, or an identification of the standard test methods used for each test.

3. Proof of analytical proficiency in each test. Proof may consist of quality assurance test results from comparison studies, split samples or proficiency tests which meet the proficiency evaluation requirements under s. ATCP 77.24 or ATCP 77.34. The operator of a water laboratory shall also provide documentation required under s. ATCP 77.32.

Note: An operator may obtain application forms and submit applications to the department at the following address:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Food Safety and Inspection
Laboratory Certification Program
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
(608) 224-4712

(2) **ANNUAL RENEWAL.** To renew an annual certification, the operator of a certified laboratory shall file a renewal application with the department by December 31 of each year. The operator shall file the renewal application on a form provided by the department. The renewal application shall include all of the following:

(a) The information required under sub. (1) (a) to (d). The application shall identify any changes since the last annual renewal.

(b) The information required under sub. (1) (e) if the operator requests certification to perform a test which the department has not yet certified the operator to perform.

(c) The certification fees required under s. ATCP 77.06.

Note: The department will send renewal application forms to certified laboratories approximately 6 weeks before their current annual certifications expire.

(3) **FALSE INFORMATION.** No person may misrepresent or falsify any information contained in a certification application under this section.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.06 Certification fees. (1) **FEE AMOUNTS.** Except as provided under sub. (2) or (3), an operator shall pay an annual certification fee of \$216 for each test at each laboratory for which the operator is certified.

(2) **PARTIAL FEES.** If the department certifies an operator to perform a test for less than a full calendar year, the operator shall pay a fee of \$18 for each full month of certification for that test.

(3) **FEE EXEMPTIONS.** A county or municipality that contracts with the department to license and inspect retail food establishments as the department's agent under s. 97.41, Stats., is not required to pay any certification fee.

(4) **PAYING CERTIFICATION FEES.** (a) If the department has not previously certified an operator to perform any of the tests listed under s. ATCP 77.02 at the laboratory for which the operator is seeking certification, the department shall bill the operator under sub. (1) or (2) after the department inspects the laboratory under s. ATCP 77.14 (1) (a). The department may not certify the operator to perform any test until the operator pays the required certification fee for that test.

(b) If the operator of a certified laboratory applies for certification to perform additional tests under sub. (5), or files a renewal application under s. ATCP 77.04 (2), the operator shall include with that application the fees required under sub. (1) or (2).

(5) **ADDITIONAL TESTS.** The operator of a certified laboratory may, at any time, apply for certification to perform additional tests which the department has not yet certified the operator to perform at that laboratory. The operator shall apply on a form provided by the department. The application shall include all of the following:

(a) The additional tests for which the operator seeks certification.

(b) Documentation, under s. ATCP 77.04 (1) (e), that the operator is qualified to perform each additional test under par. (a).

(c) The fees required under sub. (1) or (2).

Note: An operator may apply under sub. (5) at any time during a license year, and need not wait until the annual license renewal.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.08 Granting and withdrawing certification.

(1) **GRANTING CERTIFICATION.** The department shall certify an operator under s. ATCP 77.03 if the operator and laboratory comply with this chapter. The department may conditionally certify an operator pending action by the operator to correct deficiencies which the department has identified. The department may summarily suspend a conditional certification, without prior hearing, if the operator fails to correct the deficiencies within the time specified by the department.

(2) **DEADLINE FOR ACTION ON CERTIFICATION REQUEST.** Within 40 calendar days after the department receives a complete application under s. ATCP 77.04, the department shall do all the following:

(a) Inspect the laboratory if an inspection is required under s. ATCP 77.14 (1).

(b) Grant the application, grant the application subject to conditions, or deny the application.

(3) **MILK AND FOOD LABORATORIES; CERTIFIED ANALYSTS.** (a) The department may not certify an operator to perform any test under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2) unless the department has certified all of the analysts who perform that test at that laboratory.

(4) **SUSPENDING OR REVOKING CERTIFICATION.** The department may suspend or revoke an operator's certification for cause, including a violation of this chapter or failure to file required laboratory reports with other government agencies. The department shall comply with applicable requirements under ch. 227, Stats., and ch. ATCP 1.

Note: See ss. 93.06 (7) and 93.12, Stats.

(5) **SUMMARY SUSPENSION.** The food safety administrator may issue a written notice, summarily suspending all or part of an operator's certification, if the food safety administrator finds in the suspension notice that the operator has not complied with this chapter, that the noncompliance poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the public or laboratory workers, and that the noncompliance is likely to continue unless the food safety administrator summarily suspends the operator's certification. The operator may contest the summary suspension according to s. ATCP 1.03 (3).

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.10 Laboratory facilities. (1) **ADEQUATE FACILITIES.** A certified laboratory shall have all of the following:

(a) Adequate facilities, equipment and supplies to perform the tests which the operator is certified to perform at that laboratory.

(b) At least 5 linear feet of level bench top working space per analyst.

(c) At least 50 foot candles of light on each bench top.

(d) Effective climate controls to maintain proper temperature and humidity for testing.

(2) **QUALITY CONTROL AND MAINTENANCE.** The operator of a certified laboratory shall do all of the following:

(a) Maintain laboratory facilities, equipment and supplies in proper working condition.

(b) Maintain temperature-controlled equipment, including incubators, water baths, refrigerators and freezers, so that the equipment functions effectively. The operator shall measure and record equipment temperatures at least daily when the equipment is in use.

(c) Maintain autoclaves to ensure proper temperature and pressure throughout the entire sterilization cycle, and keep a record of autoclave maintenance.

(d) Calibrate each electronic test instrument as recommended by the instrument manufacturer, and record the results.

(e) Ensure that each reagent and solution is clearly labeled to show its identity, its titer or concentration, its expiration or preparation date, instructions for proper storage, and other pertinent information. An operator shall store reagents and solutions according to the manufacturer's specifications.

(f) Ensure that glassware is free of chips, excessive scratches or cloudiness. Glassware used for measurement, including pipettes, graduated cylinders and volumetric flasks, shall have clear graduations.

(3) **NOTICE OF MATERIAL CHANGES.** An operator shall notify the department whenever the operator remodels laboratory facilities or installs new equipment if the remodeling or installation materially affects the performance of tests under s. ATCP 77.02 which the operator is certified to perform at that laboratory.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.12 Laboratory administrator. The laboratory administrator or a designated agent of the administrator shall be present at every certified laboratory during daytime business hours. The laboratory administrator shall do all of the following on behalf of the laboratory operator:

(1) Supervise the laboratory and its compliance with this chapter.

(2) Review and approve, for submission to the department, every certification application which the operator submits for that laboratory under s. ATCP 77.04.

(3) Supervise the procurement and maintenance of laboratory facilities, equipment and supplies, and notify the department of material changes under s. ATCP 77.10(3).

(4) Facilitate department inspections of the laboratory. At the request of the department, the administrator shall grant the department access to laboratory facilities, equipment and records, and shall arrange for analysts to demonstrate their testing proficiency.

(5) Notify the department of changes in laboratory analysts under s. ATCP 77.22 (10).

(6) Notify all laboratory customers if the department suspends or revokes all or part of the laboratory's certification.

(7) Report test results to the appropriate regulatory agency, if required by law.

(8) Supervise laboratory recordkeeping under s. ATCP 77.16. History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.14 Inspecting a laboratory. (1) **MANDATORY INSPECTIONS.** The department shall inspect a laboratory at all of the following times:

(a) Before certifying the operator under s. ATCP 77.03, for the first time, to perform tests at that laboratory.

(b) At least once every 2 years after the department first certifies the operator under s. ATCP 77.03 to perform tests at that laboratory.

(c) Before the department certifies the operator to perform a test under s. ATCP 77.02 which the department has not previously certified that operator to perform at that laboratory.

(2) **DISCRETIONARY INSPECTIONS.** The department may inspect a certified laboratory whenever any of the following occurs:

(a) The operator materially alters laboratory facilities or equipment.

(b) The operator assigns a new analyst to perform a test for which the operator is currently certified.

(c) The department concludes that an inspection is necessary to determine whether the operator, or the operator's laboratory, complies with this chapter.

(3) **INSPECTION AUTHORITY.** The department may exercise its authority under ss. 93.08, 93.14, 93.15, 93.16 and 97.12, Stats., in support of an inspection under this chapter. The department may suspend or revoke the certification of any operator who obstructs or fails to permit an inspection under this section.

Note: The department conducts its inspections during laboratory business hours. The department ordinarily pre-arranges inspection dates and times that are acceptable to laboratory operators, but is not required to do so. A person who obstructs or interferes with an inspection may also be subject to penalties under s. 93.21 (2) or (4) or s. 97.12 (4), Stats.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.16 Laboratory records. (1) **RECORDS REQUIRED.** An operator shall make complete records related to all of the following:

(a) The training, experience and proficiency testing of every analyst who performs tests for which the laboratory is certified.

(b) Laboratory evaluations required under this chapter.

(c) Laboratory policies and procedures.

(d) Laboratory facilities, equipment and supplies, including records related to procurement, calibration, testing and maintenance.

(e) Quality control procedures and monitoring.

(f) Tests performed at the laboratory, including records related to the nature of the test, the person for whom the test is performed, the assigned analysts, the test methods used, the date and time of testing, and the test results obtained.

(g) Test reports filed with the department and other government agencies.

Note: For example, see reporting requirements under chs. ATCP 60, 70 and 80, and chs. NR 809 and 812.

(2) **RECORD RETENTION; AVAILABILITY.** (a) The operator of a milk or food laboratory shall retain all records under sub. (1) for

at least 2 years. The operator of a water laboratory shall retain all records under sub. (1) for at least 5 years.

(b) An operator shall make records under sub. (1) available to the department for inspection and copying upon request.

(c) An operator may keep records under sub. (1) in hard copy or electronic form, or both, provided that the department can obtain ready access to the records.

(d) An operator shall take reasonable security measures to prevent record loss, damage or tampering.

(3) FALSIFYING RECORDS. No operator may falsify any laboratory records.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

Subchapter II — Milk and Food Laboratories

ATCP 77.20 Milk and food laboratories; procedures.

(1) TEST METHODS. An operator who performs any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) and (2) shall perform that test according to methods specified in applicable reference materials under sub. (2), or according to methods which the department approves in writing.

(2) REFERENCE MATERIALS. (a) *General.* An operator who performs any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2) shall keep, at the certified laboratory, the manufacturer's complete operating and maintenance instructions for equipment used to perform that test.

(b) *Milk tests.* An operator who performs any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) shall keep the following reference materials at the certified laboratory:

1. The FDA 2400 series laboratory evaluation forms for that test.
2. The "Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products," 16th edition, published by the American Public Health Association, Inc.

(c) *Food tests.* An operator who performs any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (2) shall keep all of the following reference materials at the certified laboratory:

1. The authoritative reference manual, if any, that applies to each type of food testing for which the laboratory is certified.
2. The "Compendium of Methods for Microbiological Examination of Foods," 3rd edition, published by the American Public Health Association, Inc.
3. The FDA "Bacteriological Annual Manual," 8th edition, if the operator performs a microbiological test on food.

Note: Copies of reference manuals cited under sub. (2) are on file with the department, the secretary of state and the revisor of statutes. To find out how to order these manuals from the publishers, you may contact the department at the following address:

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Food Safety, Bureau of Food Safety and Inspection
Laboratory Certification Program
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708-8911
(608) 224-4712

(3) CULTURE MEDIA. Culture media used for any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2) shall be effectively sterilized before they are used. Culture media shall be autoclaved for the total cycle time and sterilization time specified by the media manufacturer or by the applicable test method under this section.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.22 Milk and food laboratories; certified analysts.

(1) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED. No analyst may perform a test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2) unless the department certifies that analyst to perform that test. The department shall certify the analysts employed at a laboratory when it conducts a mandatory inspection of that laboratory under s. ATCP 77.14 (1). The department may certify new analysts, or certify analysts to perform additional tests, at other times.

(2) TERM OF CERTIFICATION. An analyst's certification to perform a test remains in effect until one of the following occurs:

(a) The department conducts the next biennial inspection of the laboratory under s. ATCP 77.14 (1).

(b) The analyst is no longer employed at the laboratory where the analyst was employed when the department last granted or renewed the analyst's certification.

(c) The department suspends or revokes the analyst's certification.

(3) COMPETENCY EVALUATION. (a) Before the department certifies an analyst to perform any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2), the department shall observe and evaluate that analyst's competency to perform that test.

(b) Whenever the department performs a mandatory inspection of a laboratory under s. ATCP 77.14 (1), the department shall perform a competency evaluation under par. (a) of every analyst who performs a test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2).

(c) The department shall use an appropriate FDA 2400 series form or if no FDA 2400 series form applies, another standard form to evaluate an analyst's competency under par. (a). If an analyst performs plate loop counts or electronic somatic cell counts, the department shall check the analyst's ability to perform the statistical comparisons required by those tests.

(4) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY EVALUATION. An analyst who performs a test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2) shall complete an annual proficiency evaluation for that test if an annual proficiency evaluation is required under s. ATCP 77.24.

(5) CONDITIONAL CERTIFICATION. If the department determines under sub. (3) that an analyst is competent to perform a test, but the analyst has not yet completed a proficiency evaluation under s. ATCP 77.24 for that test, the department shall conditionally certify the analyst. If a conditionally certified analyst fails a proficiency evaluation under s. ATCP 77.24, the department shall summarily suspend the analyst's certification to perform that test.

(6) FULL CERTIFICATION. If the department determines under sub. (3) that an analyst is competent to perform a test, and the analyst also passes a proficiency evaluation under s. ATCP 77.24 for that test, the department shall fully certify that analyst to perform that test.

(7) PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION. If a fully certified analyst fails a proficiency evaluation under s. ATCP 77.24 for any test, the department shall issue a notice stating that the analyst is provisionally certified to perform that test. If a provisionally certified analyst passes a proficiency evaluation under s. ATCP 77.24 on a new set of proficiency samples, the department shall restore the analyst to full certification. If a provisionally certified analyst fails a proficiency evaluation on a new set of proficiency samples, the department shall summarily suspend the analyst's certification to perform that test.

(8) RESTORING CERTIFICATION. The department may restore the certification of any analyst whose certification is summarily suspended under sub. (5) or (7) if the analyst completes a training program approved by the department and passes a proficiency evaluation under s. ATCP 77.24 on a new set of proficiency samples. The department shall restore the analyst to full certification, even if the analyst was conditionally certified when certification was suspended.

(9) LIST OF CERTIFIED ANALYSTS. The department shall maintain, for each certified laboratory, a list of analysts currently certified to perform tests listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) and (2). The list shall identify the tests which each analyst is certified to perform.

(10) NOTICE OF CHANGES. (a) An operator shall notify the department within 30 days after any of the following occurs:

1. An analyst certified under this section is no longer employed by the laboratory.

2. There is a change in the name of any analyst certified under this section.

(b) An operator shall notify the department of a staffing change within 7 days after that change occurs if, as a result of that change, the operator no longer meets applicable certification requirements under s. ATCP 77.08 (3).

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.24 Milk and food analysts; proficiency evaluation. (1) ANNUAL PROFICIENCY EVALUATION REQUIRED. Except as provided in sub. (4), the department may not renew an analyst's certification to perform any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) or (2) unless, within the year immediately preceding that renewal, the analyst passes a proficiency evaluation for that test. The proficiency evaluation shall comply with this section.

(2) FORM OF EVALUATION. In a proficiency evaluation under sub. (1), an analyst shall examine samples prepared by an approved evaluator under sub. (3). The contents of the samples shall be known only to the evaluator. The evaluator shall rate the analyst's proficiency by comparing the analyst's results to the known contents of the samples, and shall report those results and ratings to the department.

(3) APPROVED EVALUATOR. The department, or another evaluator approved by the department in writing, shall serve as a proficiency evaluator under sub. (2).

Note: The department will approve an evaluator under sub. (3) if FDA approves that evaluator for the same purpose.

(4) EVALUATION PROCEDURE; GENERAL. A proficiency evaluation under sub. (1) shall be conducted according to a standard evaluation procedure which the department approves in writing. An analyst is not required to complete a proficiency evaluation for any test unless the department has approved a standard evaluation procedure for that test. A standard evaluation procedure shall comply with applicable requirements under sub. (5), and shall include standards for all of the following:

(a) The evaluator's preparation of proficiency evaluation samples.

(b) The analyst's examination of proficiency evaluation samples.

(c) Deadlines for examining proficiency evaluation samples and reporting test results.

(d) The evaluator's review and rating of the analyst's proficiency.

(5) MILK TESTS; EVALUATION STANDARDS. (a) Proficiency evaluations for the following tests under s. ATCP 77.02 (1) shall test include at least the following number of samples:

1. At least six but not more than 20 samples for standard plate count, petrifilm aerobic count, plate loop count, or phosphatase tests.

2. At least eight but not more than 20 samples for direct microscopic somatic cell counts, electronic somatic cell counts, drug residue tests, or coliform tests

(b) To pass a proficiency evaluation under par. (a) which involves 6 to 10 samples, an analyst shall obtain no more than one unacceptable sample result. To pass a proficiency evaluation under par. (a) which involves 11 to 20 samples, an analyst shall obtain no more than 2 unacceptable sample results.

(c) In a proficiency evaluation for any of the following tests, a sample result is unacceptable if it falls outside the statistical limits established in FDA's "Evaluation of Milk Laboratories," 1995 edition.

1. Standard plate count.
2. Petrifilm aerobic count.
3. Plate loop count.
4. Direct microscopic somatic cell count.
5. Electronic somatic cell count.

(d) In a proficiency evaluation for a test, such as a drug residue or phosphatase test, in which sample test results are reportable as positive or negative, a sample result is unacceptable if the analyst fails to report the correct positive or negative result.

(e) In a proficiency evaluation for a coliform test, a sample result is unacceptable if the analyst fails to detect coliform in a sample that contains at least five coliform organisms per milliliter or per gram of product.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

Subchapter III — Water Laboratories

ATCP 77.30 Water laboratories; procedures.

(1) TEST METHODS. An operator who performs any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) shall perform that test according to methods specified in applicable reference materials under sub. (2), or according to methods which the department approves in writing.

(2) REFERENCE MATERIALS. An operator who performs any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) shall keep all of the following reference materials at the certified laboratory:

(a) The manufacturer's complete operating and maintenance instructions for equipment used to perform that test.

(b) The U.S. environmental protection agency "Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water," 4th edition.

(c) "Standards Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," 18th or 19th edition, published by the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.

(3) CULTURE MEDIA. Culture media for any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) shall be effectively sterilized before they are used. Culture media shall be autoclaved for the total cycle time and sterilization time specified by the media manufacturer or by the applicable test method under this section.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.32 Water laboratory analysts. (1) OPERATOR TO DOCUMENT COMPETENCY. In every initial or renewal application for water laboratory certification, a laboratory operator shall document that the analysts who perform each test under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) for which the laboratory seeks certification are properly trained to perform that test, and can accurately test positive and negative blind samples. Analysts are not required to be certified by the department.

(2) DEPARTMENT TO AUDIT COMPETENCY. Whenever the department performs a mandatory inspection of a water laboratory under s. ATCP 77.14 (1), the department shall observe and evaluate the competency of at least one analyst who performs tests under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) for which the department is certifying the water laboratory. The department shall use the United States environmental protection agency "Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water," 4th edition, to evaluate the analyst's competency.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.

ATCP 77.34 Water laboratories; proficiency evaluation. (1) EVALUATION REQUIRED. Except as provided in sub. (4), the department may not issue or renew an operator's certification to perform any test listed under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) unless, within the year immediately preceding that certification or renewal, the laboratory passes a proficiency evaluation for that test.

(2) FORM OF EVALUATION. In a laboratory proficiency evaluation under sub. (1), an operator shall assign an analyst to examine samples prepared by an approved evaluator under sub. (3). The contents of the samples shall be known only to the evaluator. The analyst who examines the samples shall be an analyst who normally performs that test at the certified laboratory. The evaluator shall rate the operator's proficiency by comparing the analyst's

results to the known contents of the samples, and shall report those results and ratings to the department.

(3) **APPROVED EVALUATOR.** The state of Wisconsin laboratory of hygiene, or another evaluator approved by the department in writing, shall be the evaluator in a proficiency evaluation under sub. (1).

(4) **EVALUATION PROCEDURE; GENERAL.** A proficiency evaluation under sub. (1) shall be conducted according to a standard evaluation procedure which the department approves in writing. An operator is not required to complete a proficiency evaluation for any test unless the department has approved a standard evaluation procedure for that test. A standard evaluation procedure shall include standards for all the following:

(a) The evaluator's preparation of proficiency evaluation samples.

(b) The operator's examination of proficiency evaluation samples.

(c) Deadlines for examining proficiency evaluation samples and reporting test results.

(d) The evaluator's review and rating of the operator's proficiency.

(5) **DRINKING WATER TESTS; EVALUATION PROCEDURES.** Beginning on July 1, 1999, standard evaluation procedures for tests under s. ATCP 77.02 (3) shall include the following requirements:

(a) An operator who is evaluated for proficiency in testing for total coliform and fecal coliform or *E. coli* shall examine at least 10 samples of at least 100 ml. each annually. The evaluator shall provide full volume samples, or the concentrate and diluents needed to reconstitute the concentrates to full volume. Each sample set shall include all of the following:

1. One to 4 samples of an aerogenic strain of *Escherichia coli* which, if properly tested according to methods under s. ATCP 77.30 (1), will test positive for total and fecal coliform.

2. One to 4 samples of *Enterobacter* sp. or other microorganisms which, if properly tested according to methods under s. ATCP 77.30 (1), will test positive for total coliform and negative for fecal coliform.

3. One to 4 samples of *Pseudomonas* sp. or other microorganisms which, if properly tested according to methods under s. ATCP 77.30 (1), will test negative for total coliform and fecal coliform.

4. One to 4 blank samples.

(b) An operator testing proficiency evaluation samples under par. (a) shall report the test results to the evaluator. The evaluator shall report the test results to the department within 40 calendar days after the evaluator mails or delivers the samples under par. (a) to the operator. For each sample tested, the evaluator shall report the operator's test result for total coliform and fecal coliform or *E. coli*, and shall indicate whether that test result is correct or incorrect.

(c) To pass a proficiency evaluation under par. (a), an operator shall report the correct result on 90 percent of the samples tested, with no false negatives.

(6) **FULL CERTIFICATION.** The department may fully certify an operator to perform a test if, in a proficiency evaluation under this section, the operator meets applicable performance standards under subs. (4) and (5).

(7) **PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATION; SUSPENSION.** (a) If, in any proficiency evaluation under this section, an operator fails to meet applicable performance standards under subs. (4) and (5), the department shall issue a notice stating that the operator's certification to perform that test is provisional.

(b) A provisionally certified operator may regain full certification by meeting applicable standards under subs. (4) and (5) on the next 2 consecutive proficiency evaluations.

(c) If a provisionally certified operator fails to meet applicable performance standards under subs. (4) and (5) on either of the next 2 proficiency evaluations, the department shall summarily suspend the operator's certification to perform that test. The department may fully restore the operator's certification if the operator does both of the following:

1. Documents the steps which the operator has taken to correct the performance deficiency.

2. Meets applicable performance standards under subs. (4) and (5) on a new proficiency evaluation.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10-1-99.