

DIVERSIFIED LABORATORY SOLUTIONS THAT ADVANCE BUSINESS GOALS



Kentucky Division e-Newsletter

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*Louisville - Lexington - Paducah - Evansville
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MICROBAC - PADUCAH LABORATORY OBTAINS DRINKING WATER CERTIFICATION

Microbac Laboratories, Inc., Kentucky Testing Laboratory (KTL) Division, is pleased to announce that the Paducah Satellite Laboratory has received Kentucky Drinking Water Certification for the following microbiological analyses:

- Coliform by Standard Methods (SM) 9223B (Colilert)

- Aerobic Plate Count by SM 9215B



This certification program requires both verified technician training as well as an on-site audit of the laboratory setting. Ted Meriwether has completed his training as a Kentucky Certified Drinking Water Analyst and will be performing the testing in Paducah. Stan Cook, also of the Paducah location, is undergoing technical training and is scheduled to achieve the certified status in August. In order to best service the clients of west Kentucky, Ted and Stan will both be certified in order to address not only scheduled samples but also emergency response situations such as line breaks. Microbac congratulates these gentlemen for their hard work and achievement. KTL also applauds the efforts of Trevor Haynes, Microbiology Department Supervisor in Louisville, and Dee Cutrera, Quality Systems Officer in Louisville, for their diligence and leadership in assisting Ted and Stan in their accomplishment.

Paducah joins the Louisville and Lexington facilities of Microbac as Certified Drinking Water Laboratories. This geographic coverage and redundancy allows Microbac to better service clients across the entire state. Should

contingencies be necessary at any time at one of the three facilities, there will always be two other certified labs within arms reach to make sure our clients are always serviced. This is part of our continued efforts to make Microbac the "one stop" laboratory and your laboratory of choice.

MICROBAC KTL RECENTLY ADDED TOC TO DRINKING WATER SCOPE

Microbac Laboratories, Inc. Kentucky Testing Division has recently added Total Organic Carbon (TOC) to their Drinking Water Scope. (Lab # KY00074)

"Measurement of TOC is of vital importance to the operation of water treatment and waste treatment plants. In many Applications, the presence of organic contaminants may degrade ion-exchange capacity, serve as a nutrient source for undesired biological growth or be otherwise detrimental to the process for which the water is to be utilized. For drinking water in particular, organic compounds may react with disinfection products to produce potentially toxic and carcinogenic compounds." SM 5310A

TOC is analyzed per Standard Methods 5310C. This persulfate-ultraviolet oxidation method is a rapid, precise method for the measurement of trace levels of organic carbon in water. First, inorganic carbon is purged from the acidified sample. Organic carbon is then oxidized to carbon dioxide, CO₂, by persulfate in the presence of ultraviolet light. The Tekmar Dohrmann Phoenix 8000 TOC Analyzer utilizes an ultraviolet lamp submerged in a continuously gas-purged reactor that is filled with a constant-feed persulfate solution. The samples are introduced serially into the reactor through autosampler syringe injection. The CO₂ produced is sparged continuously from the solution and is carried in the gas stream to an infrared analyzer (NDIR) that is specifically tuned to the absorptive wavelength of CO₂.

MICROBAC KTL WEATHERS HURRICANE IKE

We never closed!!



Hurricane Ike's deadly passage was felt through much of the mid-section of the continental US, and many people lost their homes, their livelihoods and even their lives. By comparison we were lucky. Ike hit the Louisville area on Sunday September 14th, and by the end of a day of 75 mph winds, approximately 350,000 local customers were without power. On Monday morning, Microbac employees put in place a 'we can get through this' plan based on the assumption that electricity would be out for a while. We obtained generators (immediately in short supply locally) from three states and provided power to critical instruments and areas. We were able to access immediately Microbac's nationwide network of laboratories, all of whom offered to help, and we shipped samples to Merrillville IN, Erie PA, Knoxville TN and our Lexington KY operations.

Some employees had their own problems at home (power outages, downed trees or other damage) yet they came in and provided the customer service that we think is our strength. Microbac management is proud of this dedication and we thank each and every employee who went out of his or her way (sometimes a very long way) to provide that service.

When the power finally flickered back on again late on Thursday, mood lighting with flashlights and candles seemed normal. Thank you to our customers who stayed with us, who shared stories of the storm, and gave us a sympathetic ear. Adversity sometimes brings out the best in people.

WORD OF THE WEEK

lingua franca

Pronunciation: (LING-gwuh FRANGK-uh)

Meaning: *noun:* A language that is widely used by speakers of different languages to communicate with one another.

Etymology: From Italian lingua franca (language of the Franks). The original lingua franca was Italian mixed with Spanish, French, Greek, Arabic, and Turkish, spoken on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea in the Middle Ages. The name refers to the Arabic custom of calling all Western Europeans "Franks". Today English serves as the lingua franca of the world.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." -- Leo Buscaglia

"Start each new day with a commitment to do what's right – regardless of what may come your way." -- Eric Harvey and Steve Ventura

"Outstanding leaders go out of their way to boost the self-esteem of their personnel. If people believe in themselves, it's amazing what they can accomplish." -- Sam Walton

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