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**COUNCIL DECISION
of 12 December 1977**

**establishing a common procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh
water in the Community**

(77/795/EEC)

(OJ L 334, 24.12.1977, p. 29)

Amended by:

	Official Journal		
	No	page	date
► <u>M1</u> Council Decision of 19 October 1981 (81/856/EEC)	L 319	17	7.11.1981
► <u>M2</u> Commission Decision of 24 July 1984 (84/422/EEC)	L 237	15	5.9.1984
► <u>M3</u> Council Decision of 24 November 1986 (86/574/EEC)	L 335	44	28.11.1986
► <u>M4</u> Commission Decision of 14 December 1989 (90/2/EEC)	L 1	20	4.1.1990
► <u>M5</u> Council Regulation (EC) No 807/2003 of 14 April 2003	L 122	36	16.5.2003

Amended by:

► <u>A1</u> Act of Accession of Greece	L 291	17	19.11.1979
► <u>A2</u> Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal	L 302	23	15.11.1985
► <u>A3</u> Act of Accession of Austria, Sweden and Finland	C 241	21	29.8.1994
(adapted by Council Decision 95/1/EC, Euratom, ECSC)	L 1	1	1.1.1995

**COUNCIL DECISION****of 12 December 1977****establishing a common procedure for the exchange of information
on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community**

(77/795/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾,Whereas the 1973 ⁽³⁾ and 1977 ⁽⁴⁾ programmes of action of the European Communities on the environment provide for the introduction of a procedure for the exchange of information between the pollution surveillance and monitoring networks;

Whereas such a procedure is necessary to determine the pollution levels of the rivers in the Community and consequently to lay down guidelines for the control of pollution and nuisances, which is one of the Community's objectives in respect of the improvement of living conditions and the harmonious development of economic activities throughout the Community; whereas no provision is made in the Treaty for the specific powers required for this purpose;

Whereas such an exchange of information on pollution levels is one of the means of monitoring the long-term trends and the improvements resulting from the application of current national and Community rules;

Whereas the exchange of information provided for in this Decision should allow for as significant a comparison as possible of the results obtained in the sampling and measuring stations;

Whereas the exchange of information provided for in this Decision would lay the foundations for a system for monitoring surface fresh-water pollution at Community level and could constitute a component of the global environmental monitoring system provided for in the United Nations environment programme;

Whereas to attain these objectives the Member States must forward to the Commission data relating to certain parameters for surface fresh water; whereas the Commission will draw up a consolidated report which it will transmit to the Member States;

Whereas the list of stations in Annex I may, with advantage, be modified by the Commission at the request of the Member State concerned, provided that certain criteria are fulfilled;

Whereas technical progress requires that the technical specifications laid down in Annex II to this Decision should be adapted promptly; whereas, to facilitate the implementation of the measures required for this purpose, provision must be made for a procedure establishing close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission within the Committee for the adaptation of this Decision to technical progress,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 178, 2. 8. 1976, p. 48.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 285, 2. 12. 1976, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 112, 20. 12. 1973, p. 3.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 139, 13. 6. 1977, p. 3.

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HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

A common procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community is hereby established.

Article 2

1. For the purposes of this Decision sampling or measuring stations' means the stations listed in Annex I.
2. The information concerning the parameters listed in the first column of Annex II covered by the exchange of information shall be:
 - (a) the results of the measurements carried out by the sampling or measuring stations;
 - (b) a description of the sampling, sample preservation and measuring methods used and the frequency of sampling.

Article 3

1. Each Member State shall designate a central agency and inform the Commission thereof within 15 days of the notification of this Decision.
2. The information referred to in Article 2 (2) shall be forwarded to the Commission through the central agency in each Member State.
3. The data referred to in Article 2 (2) (a) shall be presented according to the modes of expression and with the significant figures set out in the second and third columns of Annex II.

▼M3

The descriptions of the methods referred to in Article 2 (2) (b) may be omitted if the methods are the same as those used in previous years, provided always that an explicit reference to any such omission is made;

4. The information, covering a calendar year, shall be forwarded to the Commission before 1 October of the following year.
5. The Commission shall forward annually to the Member States which so request the information received under paragraph 2. Every three years, and for the first time in 1987, the Commission shall draw up a draft consolidated report based on the information referred to in Article 2 (2). The part of this report concerning the information supplied by a Member State shall be sent to the central agency of that State for verification. Any comments on the draft shall be included in the report. The report shall include indications of the trends noted in water quality since implementation of this Decision and as much interpretative comment as possible, taking into account the objectives of the Decision.

The Commission shall publish the final version of its report and send copies to the Member States.

6. The Commission shall assess the effectiveness of the procedure for the exchange of information and shall submit proposals, where appropriate, to the Council aimed at improving the procedure and, if necessary, harmonizing the methods of measurement, taking into account the provisions of Article 4.

Article 4

1. Each Member State shall organize such intercalibration at national level amongst laboratories taking part in the collection and the analysis of data as may be necessary to ensure comparability of reference methods of measurement with those used in the laboratories of the Member States.

▼M3

2. The Commission shall, if necessary, organize a comparative evaluation of nationally applied methods of measurement. This evaluation shall be the subject of a report to be transmitted to Member States.
3. On the basis of the report referred to in paragraph 2, the Commission shall, if necessary, make proposals to the Council for the intercalibration of nationally applied methods of measurement with the reference methods of measurement listed in Annex III.

Article 4a

1. In order to implement the common procedure for the exchange of information, the Member States shall lay down a frequency for sampling and analysis, normally monthly.
2. If a Member State has established that the water quality does not display any significant variation in terms of the value of one or more parameters and if there is no risk of a deterioration of the water quality, the frequency of sampling and measurement of that parameter or those parameters may be reduced. Such a reduction of the frequency shall not involve any risk to human beings and the environment.

Modifications to the frequency shall be explicitly mentioned in the information forwarded to the Commission under Article 3 (2).
3. The reference methods of measurement for the parameters in question are set out in Annex III. Laboratories which use other methods of measurement shall satisfy themselves that the results obtained are comparable.
4. The containers used for samples, the agents or methods used to preserve part of a sample for the analysis of one or more parameters, the conveyance and storage of samples and the preparation of samples for analysis must not be such as to bring about any significant change in the results of the analysis.
5. Sampling shall take place in the same places and the sampling procedures shall be the same on each occasion.

▼B*Article 5*

1. The list in Annex I may be amended by the Commission on a request from the Member State concerned.
2. The Commission shall make such amendments when it is satisfied that the following requirements are met:
 - that the list of sampling or measuring stations for each Member State is sufficiently representative for the purposes of this Decision,
 - that the stations are at points which are representative of water conditions in the area around and not directly and immediately influenced by a source of pollution,
 - that they are capable of measuring at regular intervals the parameters in Annex II,
 - that they are as a general rule not more than 100 kilometres apart on main rivers, not including tributaries,
 - that they are upstream of any confluences and not on tidal stretches of water.
3. The Commission shall inform the Council of any amendments which it has accepted.
4. The Commission shall submit for decision by the Council any requests for amendments which it has been unable to accept.

▼M3*Article 6*

Amendments necessary to adapt to technical progress the list of parameters and the modes of expression and significant figures in respect thereof set out in Annex II, as well as the reference methods of measurement, the parameters and the modes of expression set out in

▼M3

Annex III, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8, provided that any additions to the list involve only parameters covered by Community rules concerned with the aquatic environment and for which data are available in all sampling and measuring stations of the Member States. Any changes in the modes of expression and significant figures must not involve changes to the methods of measurement used by the Member States in the various stations in Annex I.

▼B*Article 7*

1. A Committee for the adaptation of this Decision to technical progress (hereinafter referred to as the 'the Committee') is hereby set up, consisting of representatives of the Member States with a representative of the Commission as Chairman.

▼M5*Article 8*

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the committee for the adaptation of this Decision to technical progress.

2. Where reference is made to this Article, Articles 5 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC ⁽¹⁾ shall apply.

The period laid down in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at three months.

3. The committee shall adopt its rules procedure.

▼B*Article 9*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

▼B

ANNEX I

LIST OF SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS INVOLVED IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Maxau	362.3 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance	Rhine
Mainz	498.5 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance	Rhine
Koblenz/Braubach	590.3 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance	Rhine
Palzem	230.3 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	Moselle
Koblenz/Moselle	2 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	Moselle
Kleve/Bimmen	864.95 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance at the point where the river leaves the Federal Republic of Germany	Rhine
▼ <u>M4</u>		
Duisburg	1,0 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	Ruhr
▼ <u>B</u>		
Herbrüm	284.9 km from the source (212.04 Canal km)	Ems
Hemeln	11 km downstream of the confluence of the Werra and the Fulda	Weser
Intschede	329.7 km downstream of the confluence of the Werra and the Fulda	Weser
Geesthacht	113 km downstream of the entry of the river into the Federal Republic of Germany (584.5 Elbe km)	Elbe
Jochenstein	2 203 km upstream of the mouth of the Danube	Danube

BELGIUM

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Warneton	downstream of the confluence with the Deule	Lys
Leers-Nord	at the point where the river enters Belgium	Espierre
Doel	at the point where the river leaves Belgium	Scheldt
Bléharies	at the point where the river enters Belgium	Scheldt
Erquelinnes	at the point where the river enters Belgium	Sambre
Heer-Agimont	at the point where the river enters Belgium	Meuse
Lanaye-Ternaaien	at the point where the river leaves Belgium	Meuse
Martelange	at the point where the river leaves Belgium	Sure
Zelzate	at the point where the river leaves Belgium	Ghent-Terneuzen Canal

DENMARK

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Nåby	Station No 57.12	Suså
Nr Broby	Station No 45.01	Odense Å
Tvilum bro	Station No 21.01	Gudenå
Ahlergård	Station No 25.05	Skjern Å

▼ **M1**

GREECE

Sampling or measuring station		List of rivers
Drama	Papades Bridge (01) (30 km from the point where the river enters Greece)	Nestos
Serres	Sidirokastro Bridge (02) (18 km from the point where the river enters Greece)	Strymon
Thessaloniki	Kilometre post 61 · 500 on the Thessaloniki-Idomeni railway line (03) (10 km from the point where the river enters Greece)	Axios
Kozani	Moni Ilarion (04) upstream of the Polyphyte reservoir (150 km upstream of the mouth)	Aliakmon
Larissa	Larissa municipality water-tower (05) (50 km upstream of the mouth)	Pinios
Agrinion	Kastraki (06) downstream of the reservoir (50 km upstream of the mouth)	Akheloos

▼ **B**

FRANCE

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Méry	upstream of the confluence with the Aube (St 6 000)	Seine
Montereau	upstream of the confluence with the Yonne (St 14 000)	Seine
▼ M4		
Ponthierry	Bridge RD 50 (St 48 000)	Seine
▼ B		
Paris	Tolbiac Bridge (St 81 000)	Seine
St Rambert	Andrézieux Bridge downstream of St Rambert (St 9 000)	Loire
▼ M4		
Briennon	downstream of the Pouilly-sous-Charlieu Bridge RN 487 R.G. (St 15 000)	Loire
Orléans	upstream of Orléans (St 50 500)	Loire
La Possonnière	SNCF bridge downstream of La Possonnière (St 134 500)	Loire
▼ B		
Toulouse	downstream of Toulouse (St 161 000)	Garonne
Lamagistère	downstream of the confluence with the Aveyron (St 117 000)	Garonne
Couthures	near Couthures, downstream of the confluence with the Avance (St 81 000)	Garonne
Auxonne	France Bridge (St 11 000)	Saône
▼ M4		
Lyon	upstream of the confluence with the Rhône at the Mazaryk Bridge (St 59 500)	Rhône
Pont de Pougny	at the point where the Rhône enters France (St 65 700)	Rhône
Lyon	upstream of the confluence with the Saône at the Poincaré Bridge (St 93 000)	Rhône
▼ B		
St Vallier	upstream of the confluence with the Isère (St 104 000)	Rhône

IRELAND

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Slane Bridge	approximately 12 km downstream of Navan (N 96 74)	Boyne
Corofin Bridge	approximately 19 km downstream of Tuam (M 42 43)	Clare
Graiguenamagh Bridge	approximately 29 km downstream of Muine Bheag (Bagenalstown) (S 71 44)	Barrow
Killavullen Bridge	approximately 13 km downstream of Mallow (W 65 99)	Blackwater (Munster)

▼ B

ITALY

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
▼ <u>M4</u>	Bronzolo- Ponte Vadena	300 km upstream of the mouth Adige
▼ <u>B</u>	Trento	253 km upstream of the mouth Adige
	Badia Polesine	66 km upstream of the mouth Adige
▼ <u>M2</u>	Moncalieri	594 km upstream of the mouth Po
▼ <u>B</u>	Cremona	281 km upstream of the mouth Po
	Boretto	216 km upstream of the mouth Po
	Borgo Forte	184 km upstream of the mouth Po
	Pontelagoscuro	91 km upstream of the mouth Po
▼ <u>M2</u>	Ponte degli Alberi	38 km upstream of the mouth Metauro
▼ <u>M4</u>	Buon Riposo	186 km upstream of the mouth Arno
▼ <u>B</u>	Nave di Rosano	120 km upstream of the mouth Arno
	Capraia	70 km upstream of the mouth Arno
▼ <u>M4</u>	Calcinaia	38 km upstream of the mouth Arno
▼ <u>B</u>	Ponte Felcino	300 km upstream of the mouth Tiber
	Ponte Nuovo	273 km upstream of the mouth Tiber
▼ <u>M2</u>	Ponte Ripetta	43 km upstream of the mouth Tiber

▼ B

GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Wasserbillig	upstream of the confluence with the Moselle	Sûre

NETHERLANDS

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Lobith	at the point where the river enters the Netherlands	Upper Rhine
▼ <u>M2</u>	Kampen	123 km downstream of the point where the Rhine enters the Netherlands Ijssel
	Vuren	88 km downstream of the point where the Rhine enters the Netherlands Upper Merwede
	Hagestein	82 km downstream of the point where the Rhine enters the Netherlands Lek
▼ <u>B</u>	OM 42	Puttershoek, 120 km downstream of the point where the Rhine enters the Netherlands Oude Maas
	NM 34	near the island of Brienoord, 134 km downstream of the point where the Rhine enters the Netherlands Nieuwe Maas
	Eijsden	4.5 km downstream of the point where the Meuse enters the Netherlands Meuse

▼ B

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Lith	201 km downstream of the point where the Meuse enters the Netherlands	Meuse
Keizersveer	248 km downstream of the point where the Meuse enters the Netherlands	Bergse Maas
H 9	Haringvlietbrug (Haringvliet Bridge)	Haringvliet
H 12	near the Haringvlietdam	Haringvliet
▼ <u>M2</u>		
IJ 12	Ketelbrug, 145 km downstream of the point where the Rhine enters the Netherlands	Ketelmeer
▼ <u>B</u>		
IJ 23	centre of Lake IJssel	Lake IJssel

UNITED KINGDOM

▼ M2▼ B

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Chollerford	6 km upstream of the confluence (NY 919 706)	North Tyne
Warden Bridge	800 m upstream of the confluence (NY 910 660)	South Tyne
Wylam Bridge	immediately upstream of the tidal limit (NZ 119 645)	Tyne
Derwenthaugh	1.3 km upstream of the tidal limit (NZ 187 607)	Derwent
Whitford Bridge	3 km upstream of the tidal limit (SY 262 953)	Axe
Tregony Gauging Station	6 km upstream of the tidal limit (SW 921 445)	Fal
Devoran Bridge	immediately upstream of the tidal limit (SW 791 394)	Carnon
▼ <u>M2</u>		
Denny Bridge	0,5 km upstream of the tidal limit (SD 504 647)	Lune
▼ <u>B</u>		
St Michael's Weir	immediately upstream of the tidal limit (SD 462 411)	Wyre
Samlesbury	1.5 km upstream of the tidal limit (SD 589 304)	Ribble
Teddington Weir	(TQ 171 714)	Thames
Chetwynd	(SK 187 138)	Tame
Nottingham	(SK 581 383)	Trent
Yoxall	(SK 131 177)	Trent
Fochabers	4 km upstream of the tidal limit (NJ 341 596)	Spey
Craigiehall	3 km upstream of the tidal limit (NT 165 752)	Almond
Renton Foot-bridge	immediately upstream of the tidal limit (NS 389 783)	Leven

▼ A2

SPAIN

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
San Esteban de Gormaz	station n° 02.07	Douro
Villamarciel	station n° 02.54	Douro
Puente Pino	station n° 02.53	Douro
Trillo	station n° 03.93	Tagus
Aranjuez	station n° 03.11	Tagus
Talavera de la Reina	station n° 03.15	Tagus

▼ A2

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Alcántara	station n° 03.19	Tagus
Balbuena	station n° 04.08	Guadiana
Badajoz	station n° 04.18	Guadiana
Menjíbar	station n° 05.04	Guadalquivir
Peñaflor	station n° 05.06	Guadalquivir
Sevilla	station n° 05.74	Guadalquivir
Miranda de Ebro	station n° 09.01	Ebro
Zaragoza	station n° 09.11	Ebro
Tortosa	station n° 09.27	Ebro

PORTUGAL

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Lanhelas	Station n° 01.1	Minho
Messegães	Station n° 01.4	Minho
▼ <u>M4</u> Barragem de Crestuma	Station No 09.2	Douro
Pinhão	Station No 09.6	Douro
▼ <u>A2</u> S. João de Loure	Station n° 12.2	Vouga
Penacova	Station n° 16.4	Mondego
Santarém	Station n° 30.3	Tagus
Perais	Station n° 30.10	Tagus
Castelo de Bode	Station n° 30.20.2	Zêzere
Mértola	Station n° 54.3	Guadiana'
Sª da Ajuda	Station n° 57.7	Guadiana'

▼ A3

AUSTRIA

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Jochenstein	2 203,8 km upstream of the mouth	Danube
Abwinden-Asten	2 119,9 km upstream of the mouth	Danube
Wolfsthal	1 873,5 km upstream of the mouth	Danube
Lavamünd	2,1 km upstream the point where the Drau leaves Austria	Drau
Kufstein/Erl	204,03 km upstream of the confluence with the Danube	Inn
Oberndorf	47,2 km upstream the confluence with the Inn	Salzach
Bad Radkersburg	101,4 km upstream the confluence with the Drau	Mur

FINLAND

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Kalkkistenkoski	Station No 4800, lake outlet of lake Päijänne	Kymi

▼ A3

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Pori-Tampere Bridge	Station No 8820, 7,5 km upstream of Pori	Kokemäenjoki
Mansikkakoski	Station No 2800, lake outlet of lake Saimaa	Vuoksi
Raasakka Bridge	8,0 km upstream of Ii	Ii
Merikoski Bridge	Station No 13000, Oulu City	Oulujoki
Isohaara Bridge	Station No 14000, Kemi City	Kemijoki
Kukkolankoski	Station No 14310, 13 km upstream of Tornio	Torniojoki
Virtaniemi	Station No 14400, lake outlet of Lake Inari	Paatsjoki

SWEDEN

Sampling or measuring stations		List of rivers
Luleå	Station No 009	Lule älv
Stornorrfors	Station No 028	Ume älv
Bergeforsen	Station No 040	Indalsälven
Älvkarleby	Station No 053	Dalälven
Stockholm	Station No 061	Norrström
Norrköping	Station No 067	Motala ström
Mörrum	Station No 086	Mörumsån
Helsingborg	Station No 094	Råån
Laholm	Station No 098	Lagan
Aleyckan	Station No 108	Göta älv

▼M3

ANNEX II

PARAMETERS IN RESPECT OF WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE EXCHANGED

(Modes of expression and significant figures for the parametric data)

Parameter		Mode of expression	Significant figures	
			Before the decimal comma	After the decimal comma
physical	Rate of flow ⁽¹⁾ (at the time of sampling)	m ³ /sec	xxxx	xx
	Temperature	°C	xx	x
	pH	pH	xx	x
	Conductivity at 20 °C	µS cm ⁻¹	(<100) xx (≥ 100) xxx	
chemical	Chlorides	Cl mg/l	(<100) xx (≥ 100) xxx	
	Nitrates	NO ₃ mg/l	xxx	xx
	Ammonia	NH ₄ mg/l	xxx	xx
	Dissolved oxygen	O ₂ mg/l	xx	x
	BOD ₅	O ₂ mg/l	xxx	x
	COD	O ₂ mg/l	xxx	x
	Total phosphorus	P mg/l	xx	xx
	Surfactants reacting to methylene blue	Sodium lauryl sulphate eq. mg/l	xx	xx
	Total cadmium	Cd mg/l	x	xxxx
Mercury	Hg mg/l	x	xxxx	
microbiological	Faecal coliforms	/ 100 ml	xxxxxx	
	Total coliforms ⁽²⁾	/ 100 ml	xxxxxx	
	Faecal streptococci ⁽²⁾	/ 100 ml	xxxxxx	
	Salmonella ⁽²⁾	/ 1 l	x	
biological	biological quality ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾			

⁽¹⁾ The date of sampling must be given.⁽²⁾ The data relating to this parameter shall be exchanged when it is measured.⁽³⁾ The frequency of sampling of this parameter and the mode of expression of results shall be decided on by Member States.

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ANNEX III

REFERENCE METHODS OF MEASUREMENT

Parameter	Mode of expression	Reference method of measurement
Rate of flow at the time of sampling	m ³ /s	Flowmeter
Temperature	°C	Thermometry measured <i>in situ</i> at the time of sampling
pH	pH	Electrometry measured <i>in situ</i> at the time of sampling without prior treatment of the sample
Conductivity at 20 °C	µS cm ⁻¹	Electrometry
Chlorides	Cl mg/l	Titration (Mohr's method) Molecular absorption spectrophotometry
Nitrates	NO ₃ mg/l	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry
Ammonia	NH ₄ mg/l	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry
Dissolved oxygen	O ₂ mg/l	Winkler's method Electrochemical method
BOD ₅	O ₂ mg/l	Determination of dissolved oxygen before and after five-day incubation at 20 ± 1 °C in complete darkness. Addition of a nitrification inhibitor.
COD	O ₂ mg/l	Potassium dichromate method
Total phosphorus	P mg/l	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry
Surfactants reacting to methylene blue	Sodium lauryl sulphate eq. mg/l	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry
Total cadmium	Cd mg/l	Atomic absorption spectrophotometry
Mercury	Hg mg/l	Flameless atomic absorption spectrophotometry
Faecal coliforms	/ 100 ml	— Culture at 44 °C on an appropriate specific solid medium (such as Tergitol lactose agar, Endo agar, 0,4 % Teepol broth) with or without filtration and colony count. Samples must be diluted or, where appropriate, concentrated in such a way as to contain between 10 and 100 colonies. If necessary, identification by gasification. — Method of dilution with fermentation in liquid substrates in at least three tubes in three dilutions. Sub-culturing of the positive tubes on a confirmation medium. Count according to CONS.ACTN (most probable number). Incubation temperature: 44 ± 0,5 °C.

▼ **M3**

Parameter	Mode of expression	Reference method of measurement
Total coliforms	/100 ml	<p>— Culture at 37 °C on an appropriate specific solid medium (such as Tergitol lactose agar, Endo agar, 0,4 % Teepol broth) with or without filtration and colony count. Samples must be diluted or, where appropriate, concentrated in such a way as to contain between 10 and 100 colonies. If necessary, identification by gasification.</p> <p>— Method of dilution with fermentation in liquid substrates in at least three tubes in three dilutions. Subculturing of the positive tubes on a confirmation medium. Count according to CONS.ACTN (most probable number). Incubation temperatures: 37 °C ± 1 °C.</p>
Faecal streptococci	/100 ml	<p>— Culture at 37 °C on an appropriate solid medium (such as sodium azide) with or without filtration and colony count.</p> <p>— Method of dilution in sodium azide broth (Litsky). Count according to CONS.ACTN (most probable number).</p>
Salmonella	/1 l	Concentration by filtration (on membrane or appropriate filter). Inoculation (SIC! Inoculation) into pre-enrichment (SIC! pre-enrichment) medium. Enrichment and transfer into isolating gelose — identification.
Biological quality	Pending Community-wide harmonization, Member States will use their respective methods.	