



# RAPID RESPONSE, RAPID RESULTS!

The most significant  
advancement in  
legionella testing  
for 30 years

## FASTek™



The World's 1st patented & fully UKAS Accredited Rapid Legionella Test

# FASTek™ - Legionella

## Overview

Mercian Science has developed the FASTek™- Legionella system, which is the worlds first UKAS accredited rapid method for the detection of Legionella in water. Not only is this an improved method for detecting the presence of Legionella when compared with the standard culture it has the unique benefit of producing a confirmed and serogrouped Legionella result within 4 hrs of sample receipt.

To further enhance our capability Mercian Science has commissioned a fully operational mobile laboratory capable of bringing FASTek™- Legionella testing to any part of the European community. This field support vehicle would enable environmental samples to use the FASTek™- system and provide an on the spot detection of Legionella , this could be of crucial importance in the event of any Legionella outbreak, where initial identification and subsequent conformation of system cleanliness are required as quickly as practically possible.



## Introduction

Mercian Science has historically provided a fast efficient and cost effective analytical service to the environmental sector. It was apparent that with existing Legionella UKAS test methods clients had to wait for periods of 10 to 14 days for results. This test at best causes delay but at worst prolongs the time period that people and the environment could be at risk. Mercian Science's mission was therefore to minimise the time clients had to wait for results.



## Rapid Legionella Testing

The challenge for Mercian Science was to develop a method that was equal to and if possible better than the current British Standard method and accredited by UKAS. After two years of development and validation Mercian Science has developed the FASTek™ - Legionella system which is Europe's first UKAS Rapid Test for Legionella. This method uses the standard sample size of

1 litre of water, which is filtered to collect any bacteria present. However this is where the

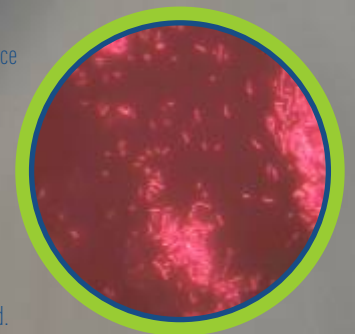
similarity between the methods ends. The standard method would now proceed to grow the

bacteria for up to ten days, after which any suspected bacteria are identified and the result is reported. The rapid test relies on specific treatment of the sample which will allow identification of Legionella within 4 hours of receiving a sample in the Laboratory.



As well being faster than conventional testing, this method is also more accurate and will determine much lower levels of Legionella than conventional methods. This new analysis does not only detect organisms which are alive, but also Legionella that have been stressed by their environment to an extent where they are not killed but are unable to be cultured. This is a vital factor in tracing areas of potential infection which cannot be achieved from existing methods.

In order to enhance the FASTek™ Legionella system Mercian Science launched the first completely mobile Legionella testing unit. This facility allows Mercian Science to take a laboratory to the suspected source of an outbreak and undertake testing on site, hence allowing a much quicker response and evaluation of a possible problem. Following remedial actions such as system cleaning, disinfection and retesting, Mercian Science will be able to give the all clear and return a facility back to operational status potentially within one day.



Our team of highly skilled scientists and analysts are always on hand to discuss your requirements and to offer help and advice when required.

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