



*This free workshop is targeted at commercial laboratories which offer microbiological testing services to food business operators (FBOs) for compliance with the microbiological criteria specified in Regulation (EC) No. 2073/2005 and to FBOs' own in-house laboratories. The workshop is also relevant to public laboratories and although very focused on laboratory procedures, will also be of interest to inspectors who perform official controls to ensure that the relevant requirements of the Regulation are fulfilled by FBOs.*

## Workshop on Rules for Microbiological Sampling and Testing

THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2018  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
FOOD AND THE MARINE,  
BACKWESTON CAMPUS, YOUNG'S CROSS,  
CELBRIDGE, CO. KILDARE  
9.30AM – 3.00PM

The workshop will focus on Article 5 of the Regulation on 'Specific rules for testing and sampling', with a particular emphasis on:

**(i) Sampling procedures:**

FBOs may use other sampling procedures to those required by Annex I of the Regulation (e.g. procedures involving pooling or compositing of samples) only if they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the competent authority that these procedures provide at least equivalent guarantees. The workshop will address the key factors to be considered when pooling/compositing samples, as defined by ISO 6887, so that this practice does not impact on the sensitivity of the analytical method.

**(ii) Alternative analytical methods:**

For each microbiological criterion, the Regulation indicates the reference analytic methods to be used. The Regulation allows for alternative methods (e.g. proprietary/rapid methods) to be used provided it can be demonstrated that the performance of the alternative method is at least as good as the reference method. The workshop will go through the procedures for the validation of alternative methods against the corresponding reference method and their verification as set out in ISO 16140.

The primary goals of the workshop are to inform participants of the requirements for the use of alternative sampling and testing procedures, and to raise awareness among commercial laboratories on laboratory procedures and practices that can impact on their customers' compliance with the Regulation.

On conclusion of the workshop, participants will have an opportunity to discuss their own unique challenges via an open-floor Q & A session.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

email: [MicrosamplingWorkshop@fsai.ie](mailto:MicrosamplingWorkshop@fsai.ie)  
or call: 01 8171 310

**TO REGISTER:**

click [here](#)

**FOR DIRECTIONS:**

Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine at Backweston, click [here](#)

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## AGENDA

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**09:30 Registration and refreshments**

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**10:00 Introduction and welcome**

Lisa O'Connor, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

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**10:10 Legislation overview**

Lisa O'Connor, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

**Q & A**

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**10:45 Transition plan for the new ISO 17025**

Brid Burke, Irish National Accreditation Board

**Q & A**

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**11:00 Tea/coffee break**

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**11:30 General rules for pooling and compositing samples (ISO 6887)**

Kirsten Mooijman, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), The Netherlands

**Q & A**

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**12:10 Validation of microbiological methods – the ISO 16140 series**

Paul in 't Veld, Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA), The Netherlands

**Q & A**

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**12:50 Lunch break**

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**13:50 Choosing and using analytical methods for compliance with Regulation 2073/2005**

Bernadette Hickey, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

**Q & A**

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**14:30 Resources available**

Cristina Arroyo-Casabona, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

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**14:40 Open-floor Q & A and panel discussion**

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**15:00 Close**

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