

**November 2001**

## **Bioaerosol Services Available**

WOHL is AIHA accredited for Environmental Microbiology and is currently providing the following Environmental Microbiology services:

### Analysis of Air Samples

- Fungi collected using Andersen samplers
- Bacteria collected using Andersen samplers
- Total Spore counts using Air-O-Cell or Burkard samplers
- Fungi collected on MCE filters in 37 mm cassettes

### Analysis of wipe/swab samples

### Analysis of water samples for Legionella

#### Equipment Rental

- Andersen samplers and pumps
- Air-O-Cell pumps
- Air Check 2000 sampling pumps
- WallChek samplers

For more information, call 800-446-0403 or 608-224-6261. Customers are welcome to email inquiries to the following addresses:

Michelle Bussen.....humke@mail.slh.wisc.edu  
Chris Powell.....powellej@mail.slh.wisc.edu  
Curtis Hedman.....hedmancj@mail.slh.wisc.edu  
Jessica Vande Burgt....vandeblr@mail.slh.wisc.edu



### **WOHL Environmental Microbiology Staff**

Curtis Hedman, Michelle Bussen, Chris Powell, Jessica Vande Burgt

## Analytical Report Redesign

We are in the process of rewriting our analytical reports to meet new AIHA accreditation recommendations. The new reports will more seamlessly integrate the analytical report with the QA report and the cover letter. We will be instituting an electronic signature option that will allow us to email PDF versions of reports with signatures as an alternative to FAXING signed reports. If you have any suggestions or recommendations for changes to our analytical reports, please email them to Terry Burk at [tb@mail.slh.wisc.edu](mailto:tb@mail.slh.wisc.edu).

## Blank Corrections Policy

Over the years, WOHL's blank correction policies have changed in response to accreditation requirements or recommendations from AIHA site visitors.

The following is a summary of our current policies on blank corrections:

- Blank samples are recommended for all analyses and required for those analyses where a background level of the analyte is expected to be present on unused media.
- Laboratory blanks are analyzed with most samples and are intended to show contamination that is contributed from the laboratory. These values are not subtracted from the field samples. The results are reported to the client to aid in evaluating their sample results.
- The blank value is reported by the laboratory but not used to correct the field samples except in those cases where reproducible background levels of the analyte are known to be present on the sampling media (formaldehyde on ORBO 24, for example).

High blank values should alert the industrial hygienist to the possibility that the field samples may also have been contaminated. The laboratory does not correct for these blank values because there is no way to determine if the field samples are contaminated at the same, higher or lower concentration.

Please contact the laboratory if you get positive results on a blank and are unclear on how to interpret the data.

## Electrostatic Sampling Filters (ESF)

WOHL is introducing a new filter for sampling of electrostatic materials (wood dust, cotton dust, etc.). This filter will replace the saucer shaped "wood dust" filter supplied previously for sampling this type of material. This change is due to the cost of "wood dust" filters which has tripled in the last year. The cost of the new filters is more in line with the previous cost for media.

The new filter looks much different than the familiar saucer shape. The material is collected in a 37-mm cassette as used with other filter types we supply. Inside the cassette is a sealed "collection module" which contains a 5 micron PVC filter attached to an insert. The entire insert



Wood Dust Saucer Cassette (left)  
ESF Gravimetric Only Cassette (right)

is pre-weighed and dust is collected within the sealed insert which eliminates electrostatic attraction of material to the interior of the cassette. Because the PVC filter cannot be separated from the rest of the "collection module," the device **CANNOT** be used for any further analysis such as silica or metals as in the past.

The filter will be supplied as a 2 piece 37-mm filter with a green band to which is attached a label indicating "**GRAVIMETRIC ANALYSIS ONLY.**" Do not confuse this filter with the old HA filter we used to supply which contained a MCEF filter and was used primarily for metals analysis.

The old style saucer filters will still be available for sampling electrostatic dusts in situations where silica or metals analysis is required in addition to weight. The new ESF filters are supplied free of charge. The old saucer (wood dust) cassettes will be supplied at a cost of \$15.00 per cassette.

If you have questions concerning the use of the new filter or any other sampling questions please contact the laboratory for clarification before sampling.