

Potential Sample Skewing from Lab Analysis

Any number of things can affect or skew sample results for pathogens and indicator organisms. Below is a list of items that could potentially skew sample results. It is not an all-inclusive list.

1. Labs not using FSIS equivalent methods.
2. Sample size used is below what methodology specifies.
3. Sample remains chilled for a longer period than normal during incubation.
4. In-house lab is not segregated from manufacturing areas and access to the laboratory is not limited to qualified personnel.
5. In-house lab personnel not under the supervision of a qualified microbiologist or equivalent.
6. In-house lab technicians not properly trained or not following written protocols.
7. Lab did not properly document any of the following:
 - a. Date received
 - b. Condition of the sample upon receipt, including sample temperature, if applicable
 - c. Date the analysis was started and completed
 - d. Analytical result