WESSLING
Quality of Life

Customer information

# Water sampling

Correctly performed sampling is a basic requirement for high-quality analysis results. There are a few points to consider if you, the customer, take solid or water samples by yourself. In particular, the samples must be preserved parameter-specifically so that the analysis data reflects the condition of the sample at the time of sampling.

To familiarise you with the way we process samples, we compiled all the important information on sampling, preservation and transport of water samples in this article for you.

We would like to assist to a smooth interaction between you as a customer taking samples, and us as a testing laboratory. If you have any questions on the subject of taking and preserving water samples, please do not hesitate to contact your customer advisor at any time.

## Legal issues

In the "legally regulated area" there may be restrictive requirements that must be observed. For example, drinking water samples that are to be tested in order to fulfil the obligations under the Drinking Water Ordinance may only be taken by contractually bound samplers.

Furthermore, test results from samples that were not taken by accredited bodies cannot be used for official purposes and cannot be legally substantiated. We therefore recommend that you check, with your customer advisor at WESSLING, that the planned procedure corresponds to the objective of the analysis before taking the sample.

## Sample containers

We will be pleased to provide you with appropriate, ready-made sample vessels. For each delivery of WESSLING containers, you will receive a list of the vessels contained, the preservatives used and other special features for sampling.

If you use your own vessels, we cannot assume any responsibility that they are suitable or blank value-free. Never use commercially available beverage bottles or other food containers, as our laboratories will not accept these.

Please ensure that the sample containers are clearly and comprehensibly labelled.

## Sample preservation and stabilisation

If chemicals are present in the sample vessels for stabilisation, overflow must be avoided when filling these vessels. Otherwise the sample can no longer be sufficiently stabilised.

## Safety notice

Stabilisation is often conducted with concentrated acids or alkalis, which are present in the sample vessels. Therefore, when handling these vessels the usual safety regulations must be observed. In particular, adequate protection of the eyes and hands must be provided.

If you carry out the stabilisation yourself, this must be done immediately after filling the sample. Ask for the required stabilization from your WESSLING customer advice, note this on the sample label and mark the vessels with appropriate hazard pictograms.

## Extraction, filtration and transport

When filling the sample vessels, allow the water to flow in laminar and avoid unnecessary turbulence. The information on the filling level of the sample vessels and any membrane filtration required on-site using a syringe filter can be found in the accompanying documents of the sample vessels.

Always close containers with the corresponding lid. Swapping lids can lead to carry-over and blank values.

Please treat the samples as gently as possible during transport (do not shake) to avoid unnecessary air ingress and outgassing of volatile substances. The samples must be placed in suitable transport containers – preferably in WESSLING Boxes – and be delivered to the laboratory as quickly as possible, in an upright position and in a cool, dark and shatterproof package.

For planned deliveries of samples on fridays and on days before public holidays, please contact your WESSLING customer advice, to find out the extent to which the test parameters can be processed in accordance with the standards on the basis of given preparation deadlines, or whether the sample delivery (and thus also the sampling) must be carried out at a different time.

## Safety notice

If you are aware that samples are heavily contaminated, please add a clearly visible reference on the order form of the samples so that we at WESSLING can take additional occupational safety measures to protect our employees if necessary. Please pack such samples separately to avoid possible cross-contamination.

## Test reports

The measures summarised in this article are the basis for correct sampling according to the recognised state of the art. Deviations in the quality of the sample vessels, preservation, filling level or the time between sampling and analysis may influence the result of the analysis. In such cases, we are obliged to include a corresponding disclaimer in the audit report.

The supplied on-site parameters such as pH value, conductivity, turbidity, etc. are not included in the test report.

If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the team of WESSLING.