

Microbiology testing services for your brewery



Introduction

While most micro-organisms are unable to grow in beer, the small number that can should not be ignored. Beer spoilage microbes such as *Brettanomyces*, wild yeasts, and bacteria, particularly those belonging to the Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) family, can impart unwanted characters to beer that can turn an award-winning brew into one that is undesirable and may damage a brewery's reputation.

To avoid microbial spoilage of your beer, an effective cleaning and quality assurance program should be in place including regular microbiological screening of your ferments, beers, yeast slurries, and water.

What services are available?

AWRI Commercial Services offers several microbiology services for the brewing industry. These include using membrane filtration and traditional plating techniques, as well as rapid DNA based tests with short turnaround times.

How much does it cost?

The table over the page outlines AWRI Commercial Services' beer microbiology services and their prices.

For customers requiring regular testing, tailored discounted service packages can be arranged. Send enquiries to commercialservices@awri.com.au for more information.



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Fact Sheet

MICROBIOLOGY

| Service | Description | Price per sample (ex. GST) | Estimated turnaround time | Minimum volume required |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Beer spoilage panel (unclarified)* | Screen for typical beer spoilage microorganisms including <i>Brettanomyces</i> , wild yeast and LAB. Number of CFUs with basic morphologies reported. 200 µl of sample spread plated onto agar plates and grown under various conditions. | \$78.75 | 10 days | 10 mL |
| Beer spoilage panel (Clarified)* | Screen for typical beer spoilage microorganisms including <i>Brettanomyces</i> , wild yeast and LAB. Number of CFUs with basic morphologies reported. 100 mL of sample is filtered onto a membrane, placed onto agar plates and grown under various conditions. | \$78.75 | 10 days | 330 mL |
| Beer sterility (clarified only)* | Screen for general yeast, mould, and bacteria in clarified beer and water samples to test for sterility. Number of CFUs with basic morphologies reported. 100 mL of sample is filtered onto a membrane, placed onto agar plates and grown under various conditions. | \$68.25 | 10 days | 250 mL |
| Micro ID | Species identification of microbial colonies through DNA testing | \$210 | Please enquire | Plate with colonies, or 100 mL |
| Yeast count | Microscopic counting of yeast cells in a sample | \$26.25 | 24 hours | 10 mL |

*unclarified samples include those that are expected to contain live yeast (e.g. ferment samples, bottle conditioned beer). Clarified samples include those that are expected to be sterile (e.g. filtered beer, wort post-boil or water).

For further information, please contact:

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