# METHOD STATEMENT

**Determinand:**
*Pseudomonas* spp.

**Matrix:**
Raw and Potable waters

**Principle of Method:**
A known volume of the water sample is filtered through a membrane filter with 0.45µm pores upon which the bacteria are retained. The filter is then placed on a selective growth medium and incubated at 30°C for 48 hours after which colonies characteristic of *Pseudomonas* spp. are counted, and then confirmed by a positive Oxidase reaction.

**Sampling and Sample Preparation:**
Once taken, microbiological samples should be transferred immediately to dark storage conditions and kept at a temperature between 2 - 8°C for transport to the laboratory. If samples are not analysed immediately on receipt in the laboratory, they should be kept at a temperature between 2 - 8°C, in dark conditions until analysis commences.

Samples should be analysed as soon as practicable on the day of collection. In exceptional circumstances, if there is a delay, storage under the above conditions should not exceed 24 hours before the commencement of analysis.

**Interferences:**
Chlorine and chloramines. Neutralise by adding sodium thiosulphate which at a concentration of 18mgl$^{-1}$ should counteract up to 5mgl$^{-1}$ of free and combined residual chlorine.

**Performance of Method:**

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| Range of Application: | 0 - 100 cfu/100ml without dilution |
| Limit of Detection: | 1 cfu/100ml |
| Normal Reporting Level: | 0 cfu/100ml = Not Detected |

**References:**
DoE (Department of the Environment) (1994) The Microbiology of Water 1994 Part 1 - Drinking Water. Report on Public Health and Medical Subjects No 71. Methods for the Examination of Waters and Related Materials. Department of the Environment, HMSO, London.