

METHOD STATEMENT

Determinand:

Qualitative Taste and Odour

Matrix:

Sample Type: Taste Non-regulatory Yorkshire Water Services and Bristol Water Treated (potable) waters or samples known to be safe for ingestion.
Odour Non-regulatory Yorkshire Water Services and Bristol Water Treated (potable) and raw waters.

Principle of Method:

The sample is smelled and tasted at ambient temperature and any taste or odour is assessed in terms of its intensity and nature.

The main causes for tastes and odours in water samples are: biological activity in source waters, especially algae; disinfectants used in water treatment, notably chlorine; and biological activity in distribution systems. Taste and odours may also be associated with building materials and linings, or by the leaching of industrial chemicals into supply.

Interferences:

The majority of these tests are carried out in the field, at the time of sampling. Qualitative Tests required to be carried out within the Laboratory, should be carried out at the earliest opportunity after sampling in order to limit deterioration.

The test may detect any chlorinous tastes or odours. Any chlorinous Taste or Odour present may mask, or enhance, the presence of other tastes or odours.

The testing analyst should maintain a high standard of personal hygiene, but avoid using perfumes or cosmetics (including scented soap). The tester should be free from colds and allergies affecting taste and odour. Panellists should not have eaten, smoked or drunk beverages other than water for approximately an hour prior to testing.

The room in which the tests are carried at should be free from interfering odours

Performance of Method:

Range of Application:

N/A for this method.

Results are classified according to intensity and nature.

Limit of Detection, Recoveries of Compounds and Uncertainty of measurement:

N/A for this method.

References:

Determination of Taste and Odour in Potable Waters 1994, HMSO, ISBN 0 11 752967 2

Accreditation for Sensory Testing Laboratories NIS 91, May 1996 edition one. Publication reference EAL-G16

