



Application Note

Monitoring of Drinking Water Supplied to Food Industry with Colifast ALARM



Kviamarka Food Processing Industrial Area
(Photo: Fredrik Refvem, Stavanger Aftenblad)

Application Overview

The Colifast ALARM (At-Line Automated Remote Monitor) measures presence/absence of potentially pathogenic bacteria in drinking water. The instrument is placed on the distribution network due to the fact that the microbial quality of drinking water can decline during the distribution. This is primarily due to old and broken pipes. In some areas drinking water pipes are located in the same trenches as the wastewater pipes, and thus small leakages can in some cases lead to fecal contaminations.

Technology

The instrument is fully automated and performs the analysis in 6-15 hours. This shortens time to result compared to when traditional methods are used. The Colifast ALARM measures presence/absence of *E. coli*, fecal coliform and total coliform bacteria in a 100 mL water sample. The automated Colifast ALARM only requires that operator changes media bottle and discards of non-hazard waste every 3rd week.

Kviamarka Food Industry

Kviamarka Food Processing Industrial Area is the largest of its kind in Norway with some of the most significant food and dairy processors located there. These are supplied with drinking water from the local water treatment plant through the local water distribution network.

The water is used in the food processing, making this part of the distribution network a critical point. If a contamination event was to occur on the distribution line this could lead to potentially pathogenic organisms gaining access to a wide range of food products, putting in danger the health of the consumers.

