

## PIPE BORNE WATER QUALITY - SURVEILLANCE CRITERIA FOR SRI LANKA

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Water Quality Surveillance Programme.

A water quality programme of pipe-borne drinking water supply to Greater Colombo Area has been underway for the past 3 years. The main objective of the exercise is to provide information to the National Water Supply & Drainage Board on the quality of water supplied to consumers; so that remedial action can be taken if necessary.

Quality for the purpose of surveillance here is the bacteriological quality as defined by the WHO. The sample size and frequency on which this quality assurance is made is based on the population served. WHO has recommended minimum sampling frequencies; but even these minimum sample sizes require an outlay of resources which Rational Authorities in developing countries can ill-afford. The objective of this paper is to analyse the past 3 years data to evaluate whether quality guidelines more suitable to Sri Lankan context can be developed.

The paper will also attempt to elaborate resource requirement in terms of manpower and equipment required to carry out an effective water quality surveillance programme in a small city.

A review of the method adopted by this programme for bacteriological quality analysis viz membrane filter technique highlighting its advantages and shortcoming vis a vis MPN is also carried out, to improve its acceptability.

Key words - Pipe Borne Water  
Surveillance  
Bacteriological Quality.