

ALASKA MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD

TO: All Marijuana Testing Facilities

SUBJECT: Guidance for Testing for STEC

This guidance document is issued to clarify that testing for STEC - Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*) does not require the identification of a specific STEC serotype or serotypes, simply the presence or absence of STEC.

“STEC” is defined as Shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (*E.coli*), a term which represents a group of *E.coli* that produce toxins that are pathogenic (i.e. causing disease).

The test method option for determining the presence of STEC is through examining a sample matrix for genetic material, minimally for genes known as *stx1* and *stx2*. An acceptable method of this testing type must be capable of looking for this genetic material and include a decision tree for evaluating the genetic data to conclude the presence or absence of STEC.

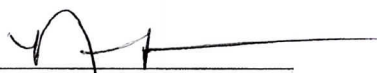
The intention of the acceptable amount in regulation, “less than 1 colony forming unit (CFU/g)”, is to determine the presence or absence of STEC in 1g of matrix. The ability to quantify the amount of STEC present is not required, nor is it required to determine a specific STEC serotype or serotypes present.

This guidance document will take effect on February 1, 2022. It does not amend any regulation or compliance document and will remain current until revised or rescinded.

AMCO staff will electronically transmit this document to all licensed Marijuana Testing Facilities and place it on the AMCO public web site.

DATED this 28 day of October 2021

ALASKA MARIJUANA CONTROL BOARD


By: Nick Miller, Chair