

**Water quality sampling,  
Microbiological and physical parameters details**

**&**

**List of some accredited laboratories in the UAE for  
water quality testing in accordance with Blue Flag  
parameters**



# (1) Water Quality Sampling - Details and Example Sampling Calendar

## Water Quality Sampling

- New BF criteria (in accordance with new EU bathing water quality regulations)
- New beaches must have....
  - 4 year water quality sampling history
  - Minimum 5 samples per Blue Flag season
  - Intervals between sampling = max. 28 days

## What does this mean for the UAE?

- Our bathing season (use of beaches) is all year round
- So UAE Blue Flag season is 12 months (as in Brazil and South Africa)

## Compiling a four year sampling history

- It is possible to compile an acceptable '4 year sampling history' in 1 year in the UAE
- How? 5 samples (minimum) x 4 years = 20 samples
- **SO** 20 samples represent a '4 year sampling history'. A sampling history must cover a full Blue Flag Season (ie- 12 months in the UAE) **so** if 20 samples are collected evenly over 12 months (approx every 18 days) we obtain our '4 year sampling history'.
- A sampling calendar must be produced to show dates of sampling, eg-

Sample No.	Date	Sample meets quality standards?
1	19.04.10	
2	07.05.10	
3	25.05.10	
.../...	.../...	
20	27.03.11	Ready for BF application!

## (2) Water Quality Parameters for UAE Blue Flag beaches

### Microbiological Parameters;

	Limit Values	Accepted % test results higher than limit values
Faecal Colibacteria (E. Coli)	250 cfu/100ml	95% compliance of limit value
Intestinal Enterococci	100 cfu/100ml	95% compliance of limit value

cfu= colony forming units (of bacteria)

### Physical - Chemical parameters;

	Imperative Values	Accepted % test results higher than limit value
pH	6 to 9	5%
Oils	Water: no film visible on the surface and no odour Land: the beach must be monitored for such pollution and emergency plans should cover response in case of oil pollution Municipal land-side sources must also be identified and managed Accepted % test results higher than imperative value 5%	
Floatables: tarry residues, wood, plastic articles, bottles, containers, glass, plastic, rubber or any other substances	Absence of floatables	10%
Transparency/turbidity	Secchi depth <1m or "no abnormal decrease" when >1m cannot be respected for geographical reasons	10%
Colour	No abnormal change	5%
Surface active substances	< 0.3mg/L	10%
Phenols	No specific odour	5%

### **(3) Some accredited Laboratories in the UAE for Water Quality Testing (in accordance with Blue Flag parameters).**

**Note: This list is not exhaustive**

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