

## TECHNICAL DATASHEET

# Stenotrophomonas

ALS Environmental are proud to be one of the few laboratories in the UK and Ireland to offer an analytical speciation service for *Stenotrophomonas* species, which are of particular concern to healthcare facilities as they are a common waterborne organism. Although infection by this opportunistic bacteria is rare, cases of *Stenotrophomonas maltophila* (*S. maltophila*) are potentially lethal. Following a request from one of our established clients we have developed a rapid technique to confirm and identify the colonies of *Stenotrophomonas*.

An aquatic, ubiquitous, opportunistic organism, *S. maltophila* may be a particular burden to healthcare facilities due to the susceptibility of immuno-compromised patients. Although it has no natural infection route to humans *S. maltophila* infection can be facilitated by contaminated prosthetics such as catheters and intravenous lines. *S. maltophila*'s resistance to most antibiotics has proved fatal to severely immunocompromised hosts.



Traditional testing for *Stenotrophomonas* involves a general screen that produces presumptive results for the presence of members of the genus. This is usually followed by biochemical tests which indicate whether *S. maltophila* is present.



ALS Environmental are employing our latest technology in order to produce rapid species level identifications, this means that we do not report presumptive results, but instead provide a full list of the *Stenotrophomonas* species present in the sample.

The full species breakdown for *Stenotrophomonas* is important as not all species are pathogenic to humans.

ALS Environmental's Microbiology Operations Manager, Pervinder Johal comments "When our customers first approached us to analyse for *Stenotrophomonas* we began our research and development into validating a new method for this genus group. By utilising the latest technology we were able to provide a full speciation of *Stenotrophomonas* in under a month."

Species of the *Stenotrophomonas* genus are common in the environment and human infection is rare. However, infection risk of opportunistic pathogens such as the *maltophila* species of *Stenotrophomonas* can be elevated in healthcare settings and other environments where immuno-compromised patients, such as in care homes may be exposed. Despite the low infection rate, nosocomial outbreaks of *S. maltophila* are of increasing concern in modern infection control because it can be difficult to treat effectively as it is resistant to most broad-spectrum antibiotics.

# Service overview

## Drinking Water

We are one of only a handful of commercial laboratories to have a dedicated Drinking Water Testing Specification (DWTS) accredited laboratory, based in Wakefield, Yorkshire. We are able to supply analysis to the Public and Private Drinking Water Regulations.

## Contaminated Land

We understand the time pressures of large scale Remediation and Brownfield projects and are a member of the AGS. Our Coventry laboratory utilises state of the art analytical equipment with the back-up of our sister laboratories across Europe to ensure that we deliver your projects on time every time.

## Waste Management

By working closely with some of the largest companies in this sector we are able to offer unrivalled analytical and administration services to ensure that your samples are processed swiftly and in line with the UKAS Deviating Sample Guidance.

## Legionella and Microbiology

Being members of the Legionella Control Association (LCA) we understand the emphasis placed on laboratory analysis for the Control of Legionella. With 3 methods for testing Legionella (including rapid PCR) and an understanding and appreciation the implications of ACoP L8, HSG 274 and HTM04-01 we are your ideal analytical partner for all of your water hygiene monitoring requirements.

## Quality

Providing customers with UKAS ISO 17025:2005, MCERTS and DWTS accredited data from our laboratories across the UK. We participate in a broad range of Proficiency Testing schemes and hold a DEFRA import licence for soils.

## Did you know that?

We are able to provide a broad range of additional services to help with your sampling including:

- Internal refrigerated and tracked courier network
- National portfolio of drop-off locations
- Pre-Registration of samples via our "Pre-Reg" system
- Dedicated customer service advisor
- Online reporting via our WebTrieve system

### UK and Ireland Locations

