INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO TAKE A DRINKING WATER SAMPLE

Bottles

For a typical drinking water sample, the following bottles are required:
- 500ml Plastic bottle (for chemical analysis)
- 100 ml sterile bottle (for microbiological analysis).

Procedure

1. Record the date, time and sampling location on each of the sampling containers.

2. The sample of drinking water must be sampled at the point where it is made available to the consumer, i.e. the tap. However, the tap outlet should be directly fed by the mains/well supply and not by a storage tank unless a sample from the tank supply is required.

3. Ensure your hands are clean.

4. It is essential that the tap is sterilized to ensure integrity of the sample and that contamination during sampling does not occur. To sterilize the tap, wipe the tap with a milton, bleach solution or sterile wipe.

5. The water should be run for a short period of time (approx. two minutes).

6. The cap from the 100 ml sterile sampling bottle is removed, fill sample container to brim. The sampling container is not to be rinsed. The cap is then placed on the bottle and care taken to ensure contamination by handling does not take place.

7. Sampling for the chemical analysis is then carried out using the 500 ml container. Firstly, rinse the container three times with the water being sampled. The bottle is then refilled to the brim and the screw cap replaced.

8. **Please note after taking the sample it is imperative that the sample gets to the laboratory within 6 hours (samples accepted 9am-4pm including lunch Monday to Thursday inclusive). Unfortunately samples received on a Friday cannot be accepted. If time exceeds 24 hours from sampling to laboratory delivery results for bacteria may be compromised.**

9. **Please fill out & sign enclosed sample card and return to the Lab.**

Please submit full payment with the sample otherwise analysis cannot commence.

IAS Laboratories does not take any responsibility for samples taken incorrectly or samples not getting to the lab on time. This is solely the responsibility of the sender.