



Proper Manual Sampling of a Combo of 2000-lb of Poultry Parts Using a MicroTally® Mitt Sampler



Introduction

The **MicroTally® Mitt Sampler** (Catalog Number: MT-M100) is a manual sampling device (MSD) and specifically designed for direct surface sampling of food matrices, including beef, poultry, and produce. After sample collection, the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler facilitates downstream microbiological analysis for pathogen detection and indicator testing, providing an efficient alternative to direct food product testing. Accurate and reliable sampling results depend on strict adherence to standard sampling protocols. This user manual focuses on the proper procedures for sampling a combo containing 2000-lbs of poultry parts using a MicroTally® Mitt Sampler. For additional instructions and applications for the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler, please contact FREMONTA Corp or visit www.MicroTally.com. Training videos can also be found on FREMONTA's YouTube channel.

Important Notice

- The MicroTally® Mitt Sampler is sterile and packaged in plastic overwrap. After sampling, place the used MicroTally® Mitt Sampler in the separately provided sterile sample bag.
- Use one MicroTally® Mitt Sampler on a single hand for sampling.
- The goal is to sample as much of the parts on top of the combo as possible using an aggressive, vigorous technique of scrubbing the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler across the parts front to back and side to side and pushing the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler down in between and around meat pieces to maximize the amount of parts sampled with the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler.
- Perform sampling for at least 90 seconds, dedicating at least 45 seconds to each side of the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler. If longer is needed to get a good sample of all the parts on top of the combo, then go ahead and sample longer.
- The most likely pitfall is personnel collecting the samples not being aggressive enough in sampling. The sampling must be vigorous enough so that any contamination that might be on the meat is transferred to the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler.

Preparation

Prior to entering the production floor, prepare the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler as follows:



1. Don gloves and sanitize them appropriately. Also, sanitize the exterior of the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler overwrap.
2. In a sample preparation area, remove the perforated top from the MicroTally® Mitt sample bag, open it, and place it on a sanitized surface.
3. Tear open the Mitt overwrap and aseptically transfer the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler into the sample bag.

Sampling Procedure



1. Assemble the appropriate sampling supplies.
2. Wear plastic sleeves and gloves. Sanitize gloves appropriately using an alcohol-based sanitizer **without** quaternary ammonium compounds (e.g., Alpet D2 **Quat-Free**; Best Sanitizers, Penn Valley, CA).
3. Ensure there is no excess sanitizer on the gloves before handling the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler.
4. Take the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler from the sample bag and place it on the sanitized gloved hand. Do not touch anything aside from the combo

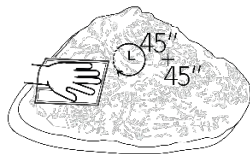


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liner, meat, MicroTally® bag, and MicroTally® Mitt Sampler.

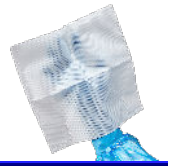
5. Pull back the poly liner from the combo to expose the entire surface of the meat contained in the combo.
6. Designate a sampling location on the combo to begin and end sampling.
7. During sampling you should scrub the top surface of the parts and drive the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler into the crevices between the pieces to sample as much surface area as possible. There are two acceptable sampling techniques:



- a. Using one side of the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler, sample one half of the meat exposed on the top surface of the combo using a combination of surface swabbing and pushing the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler into the crevices and working around half of the circumference of the combo in **45** seconds. Make sure to use enough pressure to ensure that any bacteria present is dislodged from the product and captured within the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler. Rotate the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler over on the gloved hand to the other side and sample the remaining half of the top surface of the combo in a similar fashion for another **45** seconds. Sample collection is conducted for at least **90** seconds total time for the combo.
 - b. Sample the entire top surface of the combo for **45** seconds using a surface swabbing technique and working around the entire circumference of the combo. For the next **45** seconds, rotate the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler over on the gloved hand and push the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler down in between pieces, while again working around the entire circumference of the combo. Total sample collection time should be at least **90** seconds.
8. You will use all of one side of the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler for sampling each 45-second sampling of the combo surface.
 9. Use a readily visible timer to facilitate proper sampling time. It may be best to have a second person monitor the timer to ensure proper sampling duration.
 10. The total sampling time will be no less than 90 seconds, so pace yourself to work around the combo and reach the starting location by 90 seconds. If longer is needed to get a good sample of all the parts on top of the combo, then go ahead and sample longer. The 90 second minimum is for actual sampling time, if sampling is delayed for some reason (to move around the combo because other combos are in the way or someone comes by to talk to the sampler, etc.) the timer should be stopped until sampling resumes (or extra time added at the end to compensate).
 11. Again, make sure to scrub the top surface of the parts and drive the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler into the crevices between the parts to sample as much surface area as possible.
 12. When sampling is complete, remove the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler from the gloved hand, refold, and return to the original bag.
 13. Add 25 ml of nBPW or equivalent and hand massage to mix.
 14. Close and label the sample bag.



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15. Weigh the sample and record for monitoring sample consistency.

16. Send samples to the lab for processing.

Note: Placing ice blocks directly against the MicroTally® Mitt samples can cause some localized freezing of the MicroTally® Mitt Samplers. Put a layer of cardboard between the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler samples and the ice packs.

Sample Testing

1. If not collected already, the lab should tare a scale to an unused sample bag and MicroTally® Mitt Sampler then weigh each sampled MicroTally® Mitt Sampler and bag. A baseline of sample weights should be kept to ensure samples are consistently obtaining similar weights. This weight along with a two-person timing system can be the basis for a verification program.
2. Following weighing, add 200 ml of bacterial growth media to the sample bag containing the MicroTally® Mitt Sampler and stomach for at least 30 sec. Ensure MicroTally® Mitt Sampler is pushed to the bottom of the bag.
3. Remove aliquots for enumeration of indicator counts and pathogens as needed. Incubate remaining sample enrichment.
4. Sample enrichment incubation times and temperatures will be in accordance with pathogen detection test platform validation procedures.

References

USDA FSIS NOL Log No. OPPD 2025-0201

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