

EIM Help – Bacteria Too Numerous to Count (TNTC)

Version 1.0
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In samples with very high bacterial concentrations, labs are often unable to get accurate counts and report the results as “too numerous to count” (TNTC). While the best solution is to collect another sample so that the lab can dilute it in order to get a more accurate count, this might not always be possible. **If you can’t collect another sample and you want to submit your TNTC bacteria data to EIM, follow these guidelines:**

- In EIM, you must enter a number in the Result Value field (column AM). Contact your lab to get an estimate of the value, such as 10,000 or 20,000 CFU/100mL (colony forming units per 100 milliliters) or MPN/100mL (most probable number per 100 milliliters).
- Enter a Result Data Qualifier (column AS) of “G.” G means the “Value is likely greater than the reported result. Reported result may be biased low.”
- Enter a Result Value Comment (column AZ) of “TNTC - too numerous to count.”

EXAMPLE: Fecal coliform sample with an estimated bacterial concentration of 10,000 colony forming units per 100 milliliters.

Result Parameter Name (AH)	Result Value (AM)	Result Value Units (AN)	Result Data Qualifier (AS)	Result Comment (AZ)
Fecal Coliform	10000	CFU/100mL	G	TNTC - Too numerous to count

Revision History

Revision Date	Revision No.	Summary of Changes	Reviser(s)
11/7/13	1.0	Original document	KK, CN