

Interpretation Of Microbial Test Results

Ventilation Hygiene Assessment Guidance (Methodology derived from former CIBSE TM26:2000 and current industry best practice)

SATISFACTORY

<10 cfu/10cm²

Continue routine maintenance

ELEVATED

≥10 to <20 cfu/10cm²

Review local conditions and inspect for moisture or contamination

ACTION RECOMMENDED

≥20 cfu/10cm²

Consider cleaning and further investigation

Surface Sampling Assessment Guidance

The microbiological assessment criteria used within this report are based upon historical CIBSE TM26 methodologies together with current ventilation hygiene and risk-assessment practices.

Surface microbial levels of ≥20 cfu per 10 cm² may indicate the need for further investigation, cleaning, or remedial action depending upon system condition, moisture presence, visible contamination, occupancy risk, and the intended use of the ventilation system.

- Surface deposition of microorganisms is rarely uniform throughout a ventilation system. Isolated elevated results should therefore be interpreted alongside visual inspection findings, moisture evidence, ventilation condition, and adjacent sample locations before remedial actions are determined.

- Where multiple samples from a specific system area (for example AHUs, coils, dampers, or terminal sections) indicate elevated microbiological activity, targeted cleaning, disinfection, moisture remediation, and further investigation should be

Post-Cleaning / Post-Disinfection Interpretation Guidance

- Post-cleaning or post-remediation microbiological results should be interpreted alongside visual inspection findings, ventilation hygiene condition, evidence of moisture ingress, and the effectiveness of corrective actions undertaken. Reduced microbiological activity following cleaning may indicate improved system hygiene condition; however, isolated elevated results should be assessed in context and may not necessarily indicate cleaning failure.

Where significant contamination, moisture, mould growth, or hygiene concerns persist following remedial works, further investigation and targeted corrective action should be considered.

Note: CIBSE TM26:2000 has been archived and is no longer maintained as current guidance. Microbiological assessments within this report are undertaken using legacy TM26-derived methodologies supported by current ventilation hygiene practices, risk assessment procedures, and laboratory sampling protocols.