

1. Initial preparation of inoculum (for red meat carcasses)

- 1.1** Laboratories should add an appropriate and known volume of buffered peptone water (BPW) to each of the sponge swab samples. For a standard 50cm² swab, a volume of MRD between 40ml and 90ml should be added. Account should be taken of the initial 10ml of diluent that was used to moisten the swabs at the plant.
- 1.2** Agitate the sample using a peristaltic homogeniser (stomacher) for 1 minute.
- 1.2** Remove a small volume of BPW (10ml) that is sufficient for the determination of numbers of total aerobes and the *Enterobacteriaceae*.