

# A Rapid Diagnostic Assay to Detect Methanol Contamination in Distilled Spirits - Alert® for Methanol

Methanol contamination in illicit, counterfeit or adulterated alcohol beverages is a potentially serious health hazard in many parts of the world. Effects of methanol ingestion may include confusion, nausea, vomiting, visual problems and abdominal pain which if left untreated can result in stupor, coma and in the most severe cases death. Problems occur across a broad range of countries, most prominent with common illegal trade. In mid-July, for example, authorities in Ecuador banned alcohol sales in an emergency measure to stop contaminated drinks from reaching consumers after at least 21 people died and more than 100 were sickened.

A new rapid diagnostic assay, Alert® for Methanol, developed by Neogen Corp. and Glycologics Ltd., can be used as an on-site screening tool to detect 1% or greater methanol in distilled spirits within 5 minutes.

Alert® for Methanol is a colorimetric enzyme assay that indicates a sample contains 1% or more of methanol if the color of the reagent solution turns dark within 5 minutes after sample addition.

A sample of the product to test is taken by simply dipping a 10 µl sample loop into the product and transferring it to the assay reagent solution. Blank and control solutions are provided that can be analyzed in parallel with product samples.

## **BENEFITS**

- Instant Results in Comparison to Current Testing Methods
- No Sample Preparation
- Easy to Use Format

**SAMPLE PROCEDURE** **1.** Remove cap and rubber stopper from glass vial. If required, mark the label (Vial 1) with sample information and attach to the glass vial. **2.** Take plastic tube and twist cap to remove. Squeeze entire contents into glass vial and swirl

for 5–10 seconds until enzyme is dissolved. **3.** Completely submerge the provided 10 µl sampling loop into the sample and remove carefully. **4.** Submerge loop containing sample into glass vial and stir with the loop for 2 seconds. **5.** Replace rubber stopper on glass vial and gently shake for 10 seconds. **6.** Wait 5 minutes and read results. Intense dark color indicates positive for methanol at approximately 1% or more.

**KIT COMPONENTS\*** 20 complete tests containing; 1 glass vial with lyophilized enzyme, 1 plastic squeeze tube with liquid reagent, 1 sampling loop (10 µl) and 1 label. \*1 set of controls comprising; 1 positive spirit control, 1 negative spirit control, 1 positive beer control and 1 negative beer control.

## **ORDERING INFO:**

9530 - ALERT for Methanol

