

For Immediate Release:



Santa Maria, CA; July 16, 2008

Colitag™, by CPI International, is a ready-to-use ONPG/MUG based test, which can be added directly to a liquid or semi-liquid sample. If coliforms are present, ONPG will produce a distinct yellow color. If *E. coli* is present, the sample will fluoresce a bright blue color under long-wave (366nm) UV light. Incubation of the test is performed at 35°C for 22-26 hours.

Colitag™ is capable of resuscitating and detecting even single cells of severely injured *E. coli* and coliforms. In March of 2004, Colitag™ earned US EPA approval for use as a presence-absence test in drinking water and approval for use as an enumerative test in MPN format in May of 2005. Colitag™ is available for use in municipal and bottled water testing, beverage waters and other QC coliform monitoring testing. Preliminary testing has also shown promising results for monitoring shellfish meats and shellfish-growing waters, as well as for waters growing alfalfa sprouts. Coliforms are a group of closely related bacteria that are (with a few exceptions) generally not harmful to humans. However, they include species present in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, and thus are often associated with disease outbreaks. For this reason, they are considered “indicator organisms” and their presence is used as a sign of the potential risk of illness from disease causing organisms associated with sewage or animal wastes. In order to prevent food and water-borne illnesses, the FDA and EPA regulate the testing of many foods and waters for the presence of coliforms, fecal contamination and potentially pathogenic microorganisms. Foods need to be free of hazardous microbes, or within a specified safe low level. Water

for human consumption has a maximum contaminant level of zero allowable coliforms and fecal indicators such as *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*).

Hardy Diagnostics is an FDA licensed and ISO certified manufacturer and distributor of medical devices for microbiological procedures in clinical and industrial laboratories. Over 5,000 laboratories are serviced by Hardy throughout the nation. Hardy maintains six distribution warehouses to ensure timely order delivery. Over 2,700 microbiology products are manufactured at the company's headquarters in Santa Maria, CA. Over 12,000 laboratory products are offered and may be viewed on the company's website, www.HardyDiagnostics.com.

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