

## **Listeria monocytogenes and Construction**

*Lm* can survive in moist, enclosed areas of the environments, such as cracks in walls and floors, and in crevices around drains; often these areas are disturbed during construction.

**Dust** generated by construction and other disruptive activities can establish contamination on food contact and other environmental surfaces. For example, dust can travel throughout the plant on air currents or be transferred by people or equipment traveling through the construction area into other areas of the establishment. Dust from construction can be difficult to detect and control. Therefore, increased monitoring of product, food contact surfaces, and the environment is recommended **during and after** these disruptive events.

Some examples of disruptive construction activities include:

- Removal of drains
- Removal of floor coatings
- Removal of a wall or ceiling that has absorbed moisture
- Movement through an RTE area of potentially contaminated materials
- Exposure of an area typically not accessible for cleaning

Establishments have the responsibility to control establishment activities during construction in order to ensure that only safe food is produced. When construction is necessary, there are several solutions that establishments may employ. Establishments may establish negative air pressure in the construction area in order to ensure that air does not flow from the construction area into the plant. Temporary partitions can be established to protect the undisturbed areas of the plant from construction dust and debris. Intense cleaning is also a control method used by establishments following the disruptive construction.