

## Example of Importance of Recordkeeping in Environmental Testing for *Listeria*

An establishment has an environmental testing program in which they are to swab 1 overhead structure per week in the slicing department and have it tested for *Listeria sp.* On 4-24-06, the plant swabs one of the overhead support beams in the slicing department. The record of that specific swabbing is recorded as follows:

Date	Swab Number	Description of Area
4-24-06	4	Support beam in slicing department

On 4-27-06, the plant receives a positive result for swab #4. To follow up on the positive, the QA manager goes to the slicing department and sees that there are numerous overhead support beams throughout the area. To try to pinpoint where extra cleaning and sanitizing needs to be carried out, he asks the technician which beam was swabbed and what part of the beam was swabbed. The technician could not remember where the swab was taken from.

Because a complete description of the swabbed site was not made in the records, the plant has lost a valuable opportunity to pinpoint a potential problem area.