

# Drinking Water Quality Testing Country Fact Sheet: Lao PDR

## Country Drinking Water Quality Standards

Drinking Water Quality Parameter	National Standard
Microbiological (Thermotolerant coliforms)	0 CFU/100 mL (applies to distributed and non-distributed water systems, emergencies, and storage containers)
Microbiological (Total coliforms)	Distributed water systems: 3-5 CFU/100 mL Non distributed water systems: 5-10 CFU/100 mL Emergencies: 0 CFU/100 mL Storage containers: < 2.2 CFU/100 mL
Turbidity	< 10 NTU
Nitrate	50 mg/L
Arsenic	0.05 mg/L
Fluoride	1.5 mg/L
Antimony	0.005 mg/L
Mercury	0.001 mg/L
Selenium	0.01 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	500-600 mg/L

Note: Country standards are under review at the moment.

### Laboratories

#### Licensed

- **Nam Saat Central**  
Vientiane Capital (with permission from the Ministry of Health)
- **Nam Papa**  
Vientiane Capital
- **Mekong River Commission**  
Vientiane Capital
- **Centre for Food and Medical Analysis (Ministry of Health)**  
Vientiane Capital

#### Unlicensed

- None are known

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## Local Organizations Doing Water Quality Testing

- Nam Saat Provinces – Some provinces have small laboratories, but others have received portable test kits from past projects in the areas. The provincial staff may not have the knowledge to perform water quality testing, but you may be able to find and use portable test kits from the following contacts.

Contact person	Telephone	Province	Type of Testing
Vilakhon	n/a	Bokeo	Unknown
Kongkeo	54765810	Luangnamtha	Unknown
Ms. Daovone	59799800	Oudomxai	Unknown
Somdeth	56784392	Xaiyabouly	Unknown
Phaiboun	55771361	Luang Prabang	Lab, complete analysis
Ms. Soukphaivan	97443132	Huaphan	Portable test kit
Bounlenth	56468569	Xieng Khuang	Unknown
Ms. Souban	55401844	Vientiane Capital	Unknown
Ms. Vannuan	55752003	Bolikhamxai	Unknown
Bounchan	55750104	Khammuan	Unknown
Ms. Viengsavanh	55911586	Savannakhet	Lab, complete analysis
Nixai Phoumilath	55288348	Salavan	Portable test kit
Ms. Khomsavan	97693683	Xekong	Unknown
Khomsavan	29294436	Champasack	Unknown
Phomma	5627220	Attapeu	Portable test kit
Mr. Chanta/ Mr. Phousavanh	55902250	Vientiane Capital / Province	Lab, complete analysis
Khamyeay	55787292	Phongsaly	Unknown
Ms. Khonsavan	22204693	Nam Papa (Vientiane)	Lab, complete analysis

## Local Organizations Providing Training for Water Quality Testing

- Most of the drinking water quality testing training provided in Laos are internal from Nam Saat Central to Provinces or from Nam Papa to their staff. When other organizations and individuals require water quality testing, they refer people to Nam Saat Central to perform the analysis.

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## Local Suppliers

### Hardware Equipment

- **Europ Continents**  
237 Ban Sibounhevang Meuang Chanthaboury  
PO Box 5933  
Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Tel: (+856-21) 218322 or 215051 or 252071  
Fax: (+851-21) 215052  
Website: [www.europcontinents.com](http://www.europcontinents.com)
- **Saisavat Pharmacy Import – Export**
- **Sokdee Pharmacy Import – Export**
- **Viengthong Pharmacy Import – Export**
- **Sing Loungrod Company**  
Nang Kai Province Branch, Thailand
- **Lao Medical Services**  
066 Thadeua Rd, Ban Thaphalanxay,  
PO Box 4952  
Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Tel: +856-21-314944/45  
Fax: +856-21-314794  
Email: [contact@lms.la](mailto:contact@lms.la)  
Website: [www.lms.la](http://www.lms.la)

### Consumable Items

- Same suppliers as above

## Membrane Filtration Culture Media Used in the Country

- Membrane lauryl sulphate broth (MLSB) is imported by Avonchem from the UK ([www.avonchem.co.uk](http://www.avonchem.co.uk)). It is also available at the local pharmacies listed above.

## Tips for Working in the Country

- It takes between two to three months to deliver water quality testing products from other countries.
- Most of the equipment has been imported from the UK or USA, brought by non-governmental organizations as part of their projects.
- Most products and equipment can be found locally at the pharmacies. If it is not available in Laos, it is better to buy the products in Thailand.
- Importing products from Europe or US might be difficult and expensive due to customs, cost of shipping, and taxes.
- The cheapest option for purchasing equipment is Lao Medical Services. They are the biggest provider of equipment for hospitals.

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CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology)

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Website: [www.cawst.org](http://www.cawst.org) Email: [resources@caust.org](mailto:resources@caust.org)

*Wellness through Water.... Empowering People Globally*

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