QA/QC- Air Blank

The air blank consists of a Whatman 47mm diameter, 0.45µm gridded filter placed on a triple rinsed glass petri dish. During sample processing and counting two types of air blanks were run on the work bench. One was exposed to the air the same amount of time as the sample (intermittently) and the other was exposed for the duration of processing or counting. Six air blanks were taken over the duration of the study: 2 intermittent and 4 continuous.

The calculation:

2/186.6 = 0.011 * 8.5 = 0.09

2 = number of particles

186.6 = total minutes exposed

0.011= plastic contamination per minute

8.5 = average sample exposure time in minutes (8 minutes counting, 30 seconds filtering)

0.09 =Potential piece contamination per sample