



Alternative methods for agribusiness
Analytical performances certified

VALIDATION CERTIFICATE FOR ALTERNATIVE ANALYTICAL METHOD
ACCORDING TO STANDARD EN ISO 16140: 2003

Certificate N° : 3M 01/07- 03/99

Validation date : 03.23.1999
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05.24.2007*
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* The EN ISO 16140 protocol has been
implemented for the renewal in 2007

Company (headquarters)

3M Health Care
Microbiology products
2501 Hudson Road
Building 275 5W 05
MN 55144 – IWO
St Paul - USA

Distributor

Laboratoires 3M Santé
Département Microbiologie
Boulevard de l'Oise
95029 Cergy-Pontoise Cedex
France

Production site

3M Health Care
P.O. Box 227
South Dakota, 57006
Brookings
USA

is hereby authorized to use this AFNOR validation certificate as a reference document for the following
alternative quantitative analysis method :

3MTM PetrifilmTM High Sensitivity Coliform Count Plate
Application to enumeration of gas forming colonies after 24 hours

Protocol reference : 38-9018-0346-0

SCOPE

All human food products.

RESTRICTIONS OF USE

None.

REFERENCE METHODS

NF ISO 4831(2006) - Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the
detection and enumeration of coliforms - Most probable number technique.

NF ISO 4832 (2006) - Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the
enumeration of coliforms - Colony count technique

Deputy General Manager
Jacques BESLIN

AFNOR Certification

11, rue Francis de Pressensé – 93571 La Plaine Saint-Denis Cedex - France
Phone +33 (0)1 41 62 80 00 – Fax +33 (0)1 49 17 90 00
certification@afnor.com - www.afnor-validation.com

METHOD PRINCIPLE

Petrifilm HSCC plates contain a ready-to-use Violet Red Bile (VRB) selective culture medium, a cold-water-soluble gelling agent and a tetrazolium indicator that colours in red all colonies growing on the plate facilitates colony enumeration. The top film traps gas produced by the lactose fermenting coliforms, this allowing enumeration of gas producing coliforms, as red colonies surrounding with gas bubbles.

5ml of inoculum are plated on Petrifilm HSCC, instead of 1 mL on the other Petrifilm plates, this provides a better sensitivity.

NOTE

The comparative study and the interlaboratory study done in 2007, and performed to get present certification, were done in accordance with ISO 16140, and in comparison with reference methods NF ISO 4831 and NF ISO 4832 for comparative study, and NF ISO 4832 for interlaboratory study. Results of this study are presented below.

Accuracy study results from 1998 and 1998 and inclusivity / exclusivity study results from 1999 were kept, interpreted following ISO 16140 standard and completed.

LINEARITY and relative ACCURACY

Comparison of alternative method performance to reference method performance

Linearity study :

Tests were performed in 2007 on the 5 combinations food / strains belonging to 5 food categories given in the table below.

The samples were analyzed in duplicate with each of the two methods, at the five following artificial contamination levels :

- 50 to 100 CFU/g
- 100 to 500 CFU/g
- 500 to 1 000 CFU/g
- 1 000 to 5 000 CFU/g
- 5 000 to 10 000 CFU/g

The following results were obtained :

Food categories	Food product/strain	Regression line / ISO 4831*	Regression line / ISO 4832*
Meat products	Minced beef/ <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>	$X = 0.860 Y + 0.167$	$Y = 0.934 X + 0.385$
Vegetables and others	Green pepper/ <i>Escherichia coli</i>	$X = 1.075 Y - 0.984$	$Y = 0.938 X + 0.259$
Seafood products	Cod filet / <i>Escherichia coli</i>	$X = 0.918 Y + 0.255$	$Y = 1.004 X + 0.186$
Dairy products	Milk / <i>Enterobacter sakasaki</i>	$X = 0.951 Y + 0.114$	$X = 0.939 Y - 0.072$
Egg products	Liquid egg/ <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	$X = 0.978 Y - 0.087$	$X = 1.070 Y - 0.212$

Y = log(N alternative method)

X = log(N reference method)s

*Choice between abscissa and ordinate depend on type of regression chosen.

Accuracy study (in comparison with ISO 4831) :

Results obtained during studies done in 1998 and 1999 were interpreted according to ISO 16140 standard.

Additional tests were performed in 2007. Artificially contaminated samples were used for egg products and meat products categories.

The statistical interpretation was conducted on 104 countable results from 83 naturally contaminated samples and 21 artificially contaminated samples, belonging to the following major food categories :

Meat products, vegetables and miscellaneous products, dairy products, seafood products and egg products.

The samples were analysed in **duplicate** with alternative method and reference method ISO 4831.

For information, the levels of contamination (concentration) ranged as follows :

Food categories	Contamination range (log)
Meat products	0.56 to 5.16
Dairy products	0.60 to 3.63
Seafood products	-0.04 to 4.38
Egg products	-0.04 to 4.91
Vegetable and others	0.18 to 3.87

The equation of the regression line between the alternative method and the reference method, for all food categories, is as follows:

$$\text{Regression line : } Y = 0.975 X + 0.291$$

Y = log(N alternative method)

X = log(N reference method)

The repeatability for both methods and the bias between the two methods were determined according to the method of calculation used for the inter-laboratory study (see sections 6.3.5 and 6.3.6 of EN ISO 16140 standard). These results provide additional information for the accuracy criterion.

The limits of repeatability (in log) obtained for alternative method and the reference method are as follows :

Alternative method	Reference method (ISO 4831)
r = 0.323	r = 0,895*

*Calculation based on 2007 data obtained with eggs and meat products.

The bias (in log) between both methods (alternative method - reference method) is as follows:

p = - 0.255

Conclusion for linearity and relative accuracy :

Linearity and accuracy tests show comparable results between alternative method and reference method.

SELECTIVITY (INCLUSIVITY / EXCLUSIVITY)

Alternative method only

1999 data was completed with 2007 data, 12 positive strains and 7 negative strains. Finally following data was found :

- 32 strains of gas producing coliforms were detected out of 33 tested. The non-recognized strain is an *Enterobacter cloacae* strain (this strain was used during relative accuracy study to inoculate meat products ; it developed colonies with gas on Petrifilm High sensitivity coliform, and it produced gas by the reference method ISO 4831 on only 1 out of 3 inoculated samples).
- The study of 21 non coliforms strains did not show cross reaction.

PRACTICABILITY (1997 study) Alternative method only

- **Time response :**
 - **Positive** results are obtained within 1 day with the alternative method instead of 2 to 4 days with the reference method.
 - **Negative** results are obtained within 1 day with the alternative method instead of 2 to 4 days with the reference method, depending on the case.

INTER-LABORATORY STUDY

The inter-laboratory study was conducted in 2007 with 12 participating laboratories. Analysis were done with half-skimmed pasteurized milk samples, artificially contaminated with a strain of *Escherichia coli* at the 4 following levels :

- 0 CFU/g
- 10 to 100 log CFU/g
- 100 to 1 000 log CFU/g
- 1 000 to 10 000 log CFU/g

The laboratories tested, using each of the **two methods, two replicates per contamination level**.

The following results were obtained :

Contamination level log CFU/g	Number of laboratories with countable results*	Reference method		Alternative method		
		Repeatability r	Reproducibility R	Repeatability r	Reproducibility R	Bias
Level 1	11	0.136	0.289	0.288	0.435	-0.06
Level 2	11	0.076	0.148	0.220	0.247	-0.03
Level 3	11	0.106	0.200	0.077	0.177	-0.01

* 1 laboratory has incubated samples at a temperature of 44°C, its data have not been used.

Conclusion

The inter-laboratory study shows comparable results between 3M™ Petrifilm™ High Sensitivity Coliform Count Plate and the reference method.

Please send any queries concerning the performance of the validated method to
AFNOR Certification.

You may download a summary document on the preliminary and inter-laboratory
studies on www.afnor-validation.com