

Envirocheck® Contact E Enterobacteriaceae

Ordering number: 1.02137.0001

Our Envirocheck® dip slides, for semi-quantitative detection of microorganisms on surfaces and in liquids, are flexible paddles that are coated with different nutrient media. After sampling and incubation, the results of side A and side B allow any of five parameters to be determined, depending on the slide used. Envirocheck™ dip slides are available for a range of tests including *E. coli*, coliforms, yeast and moulds, Enterobacteriaceae, Total Viable Count, and disinfection control.

Content: 10 slides/pack

Typical Composition

Slide A

Coated with Plate Count Agar to obtain the total viable (aerobic) count.

Slide B

Coated with Violet Red Bile Dextrose (VRBD) Agar, recommended by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the German Minister of Health (Bundesminister für Gesundheitswesen) for the isolation and enumeration of all Enterobacteriaceae species in foodstuffs.

Application and Interpretation

Envirocheck contact slides can be used for both surface and liquid testing.

Unscrew the cap and remove Envirocheck slide from the tube taking care not to touch the agar surfaces. Check for any dehydration or contamination before use.

Surface testing

With two fingers hold the terminal end of the paddle against the surface to be tested. Press down on the spike to bend the paddle still holding the slide by the cap.

Press one medium against the surface to be tested. Take care not to smear the agar over the test area.

Repeat the procedure with the other side of the paddle on an area adjacent to the initial test site.

Put the slide back into the tube and close tightly.

Liquid testing

Dip the Envirocheck slide for about 5 – 10 seconds into the test fluid. Both agar surfaces should become totally covered. In case of insufficient liquid, pour over both surfaces of the slide. Tip the slide on a clean absorbent paper to drain any excess of fluid. Put the slide back into the tube and close tightly.

Incubation

Incubate in upright position at 35–37 °C for 24–48 hours.

Interpretation of the results

Count the number of colonies on both sides of the paddle

Plate Count Agar: Count the number of colonies for obtaining the total aerobic bacterial count (TVC).

Violet Red Bile Dextrose (VRBD) Agar: Degradation of dextrose is accompanied by production of acid which is indicated by a color change to red and by zones of precipitated bile acids surrounding the colonies.

Surface testing

The colony count on each agar side can be calculated into CFU per cm² as follows:

$$\text{CFU (actual count)} / 9.4 \text{ cm}^2 = \text{CFU/ cm}^2$$

Information on the recovery rates of dip slides for surface monitoring can be found at Salo et al

Liquid testing

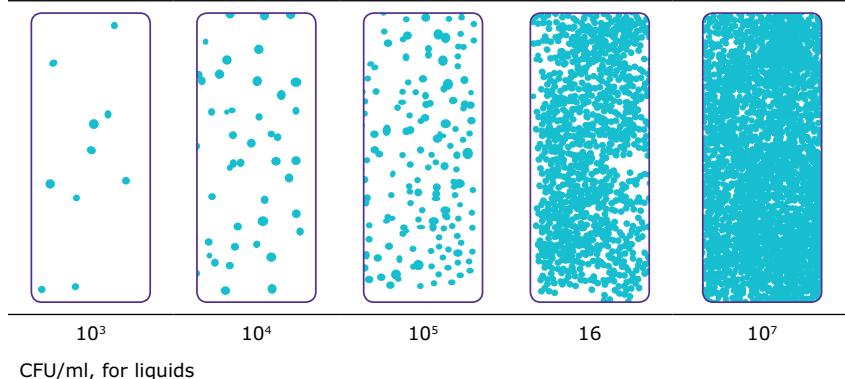
The density on each agar side can be compared to the model density chart.

Typical Cultural Response

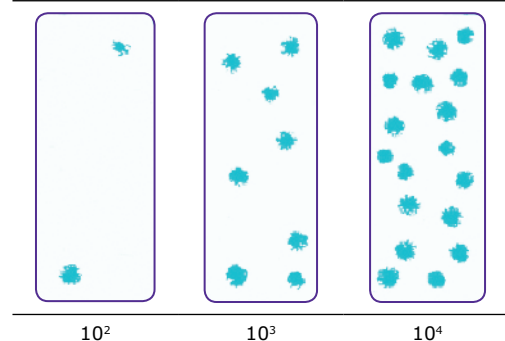
Organism	Plate Count Agar	Violet Red Bile Dextrose (VRBD) Agar
<i>E. coli</i> , ATCC 8739	Good growth	Fair/ good growth
<i>Staph. aureus</i> , ATCC 6538	Good growth	No growth
<i>Salm. typhimurium</i> , ATCC 14028	Good growth	Fair/ good growth
<i>Salm. sonnei</i> , ATCC 25931	Good growth	Fair/ good growth

Density Charts

Bacteria and Yeasts



Moulds



Storage

Please store the product protected from light at 3 to 15°C and avoid freezing. Frozen agar shows a dimpled or fuzzy surface and cannot be used anymore.

Condensation can be prevented by avoiding quick temperature shifts and mechanical stress. Upon storage the dip slides should not be placed near heat sources such as refrigerators with heat-emitting condensers.

Disposal

Please mind the respective regulations for the disposal of used culture medium (e.g. autoclave for 20 min at 121 °C, disinfect, incinerate etc.)

References

Salo S, Laine A, Alanko T, Sjöberg A-M, Wirtanen G. Validation of the Microbiological Methods Hygicult Dipslide, Contact Plate, and Swabbing in Surface Hygiene Control: A Nordic Collaborative Study. *Journal of AOAC International* 2000; 83(6): 1357-1365.

Salo S, Alanko T, Sjöberg A-M, Wirtanen G. Validation of the Hygicult® E Dipslides Method in Surface Hygiene Control: A Nordic Collaborative Study. *Journal of AOAC International* 2002; 85(2): 388-394

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