

Specification

Medium for aerobic plate counts by the surface inoculation method (standard Plate Count Agar) according to ISO 4833, 8552 & 17410 Standards and IFU No. 6.

Presentation

	Packaging Details	Shelf Life	Storage
30 Contact Plates/lrd. Contact Plates - Double Wrapping with: 15 ± 2 ml	1 box with 5 blisters (PET laminated and PPBO bag) with 6 contact plates/blister. Every pack exhibits an irradiation indicator (8-14kGy).	7 months	2-25 °C

Composition

Composition (g/l):	
Casein peptone	5.00
Yeast extract.....	2.50
Dextrose.....	1.00
Agar.....	15.0

Description /Technique

Description

The Plate Count Agar formulation is according to that of Buchbinder et al. as recommended in their study of media for the plate count of microorganisms.

The original formulation of the standardized agar for dairy microbiology has been modified in order to avoid the addition of milk. This new composition allows the growth of most microorganisms without any further additions.

This medium's formulation is equivalent to that described by the 'Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy products', the USP's 'Tryptone Glucose Yeast Agar', the 'Deutsche Landwirtschaft' and to the APHA and AOAC's Plate Count Agar. This is the medium of choice for the plate count of any type of sample.

Technique

Contact plates are used in the microbiological control of disinfection and cleaning of surfaces. It acts simultaneously as a sampler and incubation culture medium without the need for any other intermediate steps.

The plates come in a form appropriate for this function and can be used with different culture media depending on the type of microbe that needs to be controlled. On average the plates provide a contact surface of approximately 25 cm².

To use, remove the cover and gently press the culture medium on the surface to be controlled, ensuring contact between the two surfaces. The Contact plate is removed and covered with the lid to prevent air contamination. It is advisable that the lid is secured with adhesive tape and the bottom labelled with the sampling data (place, date and time).

If the sample surfaces are rough, the contact plates will not make good contact, even when the pressure is increased. In these cases it is advisable to delineate a sample surface area of 25 cm squared and rub this area vigorously with a wet sterile swab and then rub the swab over the Contact plate.

If verifying the effectiveness of a cleaning or disinfection process, contact plates should be used within two hours after the end of the process, ensuring that the sample surface is dry. It is advisable to always include positive controls, sampling the area before disinfection or dirty areas beside the disinfected area.

The technician will determine the frequency of sampling and disinfection according to performance criteria. Apply the agar directly onto surface to be monitored ensuring that the pressure is distributed over the whole plate for 10 seconds. Clean the surface where the sample was collected in order to remove any traces of agar.

The inoculated plates are incubated at 30±1 ° C for 72 hours and examined daily.

Note: Contact plates are used for monitoring the microbiological contamination of surface and air inside cleanrooms, isolators, RABS, food industries and hospitals. The double/triple irradiated wrapping ensures that the package itself doesn't contaminate the environment as the first wrapper is removed just before entering the clean area.

The plates must be kept in their original packaging (blisters) to guarantee their stability at the end of their expiration date.

Quality control

Physical/Chemical control

Color : Yellowish

pH: 7.0 ± 0.2 at 25°C

Microbiological control

Melt Medium - Prepare Plates - Spiral Spreading: Practical range 100 ± 20 CFU. min. 50 CFU (productivity)

Microbiological control according to ISO 11133:2014/A1:2018.

Analytical methodology according to ISO 11133:2014/A1:2018; A2:2020.

Aerobiosis. Incubation at 30 ± 1 °C, reading at 72 ± 3h

Ps. fluorescens ATCC 13525 (10 days/ 6,5 °C ±1) acc. ISO 17410

Microorganism

Bacillus subtilis ATCC® 6633, WDCM 00003

L. monocytogenes ATCC® 35152, WDCM 00109

Escherichia coli ATCC® 8739, WDCM 00012

Staphylococcus aureus ATCC® 6538, WDCM 00032

Ps. fluorescens ATCC®13525, WDCM 00115

Stph. aureus ATCC® 25923, WDCM 00034

Growth

Good (≥70%)

Good (≥70%)

Good (≥70%)

Good (≥70%)

Good (≥70%)

Good (≥70%)

Sterility control

Incubation 48 h at 30-35 °C and 48 h at 20-25 °C: NO GROWTH.

Check at 7 days after incubation in same conditions.

Bibliography

- ATLAS, R.M. & L.C. PARKS (1993) Handbook of Microbiological Media. CRC Press, Inc. London.
- BUCHBINDER, L., Y. BARIS & L. GOLDSTEIN (1953) Further studies on new milk-free media for the standard plate count of dairy products. Am. J. Public Health 43:869-872.
- CLESCERI, L.S., A.E.GREENBERG and A.D. EATON (1998) Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater. 20th ed., APHA, AWWA, WPCF. Washington.
- DIN 10192 (1971) Prüfungesbestimmungen für Milch und Milcherzeugnisse. Deutsche Landwirtschaft, Fachbereit und Ernährung.
- DOWNES, F.P. & K. ITO (2001) Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods. 4th ed., APHA, Washington.
- FIL/IDF Standards 3 (1958), 100, 101 (1981), 109 (1982) and 132 (2004).
- HORWITZ, W. (2000) Official Methods of Analysis. AOAC International. Gaithersburg.
- IFU Method No 6 (1996) Mesophilic, thermophilic and thermophilic bacteria: Spores Count. D-1 Mesophilic Aerobic Sporeforming bacteria: Spores count.
- ISO 4833 (2003) Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs. Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms. Colony count technique at 30°C.
- ISO 8552 (2004) Milk - Estimation of psychrotrophic microorganisms. Colony count technique at 21°C (Rapid method).
- ISO 11133:2014/ Adm 1:2018. Microbiology of food, animal feed and water. Preparation, production, storage and performance testing of culture media.
- ISO 17410 (2019) Horizontal method for the enumeration of psychrotrophic microorganisms.
- MARSHALL, R.T. (1992) Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products. 16th ed. APHA. Washington.