



Fapas® – Food Microbiology Proficiency Test Report 220

March 2017

PARTICIPANT LABORATORY NUMBER

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SUMMARY

1. The test material for Fapas[®] – Food Microbiology distribution 220 was dispatched in February 2017. Test materials for seven proficiency tests were available in this distribution:

| | |
|----------|---|
| M220e13 | Aerobic Plate Count and Enumeration of <i>Bacillus cereus</i> (equivalent to 10 g of beef) |
| M220e18 | Enumeration of Coliforms (equivalent to 10 g of milk powder) |
| M220d20 | Detection of <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> (equivalent to <u>10</u> g of infant formula X 2) |
| M220d02 | Detection of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> / <i>Listeria</i> spp. (sponge swab X 2) |
| M220d071 | Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. (equivalent to 25 g chicken x 2) |
| M220d072 | Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. (sponge swab x 2). |

2. For each proficiency test in enumeration, an assigned value (x_a) was determined. This was used in conjunction with the standard deviation for proficiency (σ_p) to calculate a z-score for each result.
3. Qualitative results for the proficiency tests in detection are assessed based on the presence or absence of the target organism in **both** of the test materials issued.
4. Results and assessments for the proficiency tests in enumeration are summarised as follows:

| proficiency test | assigned value, x_a $\log_{10}\text{cfu/g}$ | number of scores, $ z \leq 2$ | total number of scores | % $ z \leq 2$ |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| enumeration of <i>B. cereus</i> in beef | 4.83 | 28 | 29 | 97 |
| aerobic plate count in beef | 4.91 | 26 | 29 | 90 |
| enumeration of coliforms in milk powder | 3.97 | 29 | 45 | 64 |

5. Results and assessments for the proficiency tests in detection are summarised as follows:

| proficiency test | intended result | number of satisfactory assessments | total number of assessments | satisfactory / agreement with intended result % | false negatives % | false positives % |
|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| detection of <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> in infant formula | test material A detected test material B not detected | 32 | 41 | 78 | 20 | 5 |
| detection of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> on sponge swab | test material A not detected test material B detected | 60 | 61 | 98 | 3 | 0 |
| detection of <i>Listeria</i> spp. on sponge swab | test material A not detected test material B detected | 40 | 45 | 89 | 11 | 0 |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in chicken | test material A not detected test material B detected | 48 | 48 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. on sponge swab | test material A detected test material B not detected | 54 | 59 | 92 | 3 | 7 |

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Proficiency Testing

Proficiency testing aims to provide an independent assessment of the competence of participating laboratories. Together with the use of validated methods, proficiency testing is an essential element of laboratory quality assurance.

Further details of the Fapas[®] – Food Microbiology proficiency testing scheme are available in our protocols [3, 4].

2. TEST MATERIAL

2.1. Preparation

Preparation of the samples for this proficiency test was sub-contracted to a laboratory meeting the quality requirements of the scheme's accreditation [2].

Fapas[®] – Food Microbiology test materials include background flora to simulate real conditions. Information for these organisms is given in APPENDIX I.

Samples were stored at +4°C until dispatch.

2.2. Homogeneity and Validation

For the proficiency tests in enumeration randomly selected test materials were analysed in duplicate by a laboratory meeting the quality requirements of the scheme's accreditation [2].

These data showed sufficient homogeneity and were not included in the subsequent calculation of the assigned values.

For the proficiency tests in detection, ten percent of the batch of test materials prepared was analysed to verify the presence/absence of the target organism. In addition, two of each of the test materials positive for the target organism were also analysed by the most probable number technique to verify the level of organisms present. The data obtained is given in APPENDIX II.

2.3. Dispatch

The start date was 27 February 2017. Test materials were sent to 207 participants.

2.4. Storage and Preparation Instructions

Instructions regarding sample storage and preparation are freely available on the Fapas[®] web site [5].

3. RESULTS

The instructions for reporting results were as follows:

- Start the analysis between 27 February 2017 and 8 March 2017.
- The results for enumeration tests must be reported as cfu/g.
- The results for M220d02 and M220d072 must be reported as detected/not detected per swab (in English). The results for M220d20 must be reported as detected/not detected in 10 g (in English), and the results for M220d071 must be reported as detected/not detected in 25g (in English). Please note that you must use the same method for both samples A and B.

Results were submitted by 198 participants (96%) before the closing date for this test, 20 March 2017.

Each participant was given a laboratory number, assigned in order of receipt of results. The reported results are given in Table 1 to Table 6.

The analytical methods used by each participant are summarised in APPENDIX III.

4. STATISTICAL EVALUATION OF RESULTS

The results submitted by participants for the proficiency tests in enumeration were statistically analysed in order to derive assigned values. The assigned values were then used in combination with the standard deviation for proficiency, σ_p , to calculate a z-score [6] for each result. The procedure is detailed in the relevant protocols [3, 4].

Further background on the procedure followed can be found in the IUPAC International Harmonised Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of Analytical Chemistry Laboratories [7].

4.1. Calculation of the Assigned Value, x_a

The assigned value, x_a , for each enumeration test was derived from the consensus of the results submitted by participants. The procedure used to derive this consensus involved:

- transformation of participants results to \log_{10} cfu/g, to obtain a normal distribution,
- removal of non-numerical results i.e. qualitative or semi-quantitative results.

For the enumeration of *B. cereus* and the aerobic plate count this procedure was straightforward and the robust mean was chosen as the assigned value.

For the enumeration of coliforms results submitted by participants was not normally distributed. A bump hunt [8] showed the distribution to be bi-modal. The major mode at $3.97 \log_{10}$ cfu/g was considered to be the most appropriate measure of the consensus and was therefore set as the assigned value for this examination. A kernel density plot of the results submitted is inserted into Figure 3.

The assigned values for the proficiency tests in enumeration are shown in Table 7.

4.2. Standard Deviation for Proficiency, σ_p

The standard deviation for proficiency, σ_p , was set at a value that reflects best practice for the analyses in question. The Fapas® Advisory Committee has agreed that this value corresponds to $0.25 \log_{10}$ cfu/g.

The value for σ_p used to calculate z-scores from the results reported for the enumeration tests is given in Table 7.

4.3. Individual z-Scores and Assessments

Participants' z-scores were calculated as:

$$z = \frac{(\log x - \log x_a)}{\sigma_p}$$

where x = the participant's reported result,
 x_a = the assigned value
and σ_p = the standard deviation for proficiency.

Participants' z-scores for the proficiency tests in enumeration are given in Table 1 to Table 2 and shown as histograms in Figure 1 to Figure 3. The number and percentage of z-scores in the range $-2 \leq z \leq 2$ for the enumeration tests are given in Table 8.

It is possible for the z-scores published in this report to differ slightly from the z-score that can be calculated using the formula given above. These differences arise from the necessary rounding of the actual assigned values and standard deviations for proficiency prior to their publication in Table 7.

Participants' results for the proficiency tests in detection are assessed based on the presence or absence of the target organism in **both** of the test materials issued. Assessments are given in Table 3 to Table 6.

Intended results for these detection tests are shown in Table 9.

The number and percentage of satisfactory assessments are given in Table 10.

5. INTERPRETATION OF SCORES AND ASSESSMENTS

In normal circumstances, over time, about 95% of z-scores will lie in the range $-2 \leq z \leq 2$. Occasional scores in the range $2 < |z| < 3$ are to be expected, at a rate of 1 in 20. Whether or not such scores are of importance can only be decided by considering them in the context of the other scores obtained by that laboratory.

Scores where $|z| > 3$ are to be expected at a rate of about 1 in 300. Given this rarity, such z-scores very strongly indicate that the result is not fit-for-purpose and almost certainly requires investigation.

The consideration of a set or sequence of z-scores over time provides more useful information than a single z-score. Examples of suitable methods of comparison are provided in the IUPAC International Harmonised Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of Analytical Chemistry Laboratories [7].

Results submitted by participants for detections tests are assessed as either satisfactory (S) or not satisfactory (NS) as compared to the intended result.

6. REFERENCES

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<https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/kb/certificate-signatures.html>, accessed 10/03/2017.
- 2 ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing.
- 3 Fapas[®], 2016, Protocol for Proficiency Testing Schemes, Part 1 – Common Principles, Version 5, Issued September 2016.
- 4 Fapas[®], 2016, Protocol for Proficiency Testing Schemes, Part 3 – Fapas[®] – Food Microbiology, Version 4, Issued September 2016.
- 5 Fapas[®] safety data sheet and preparation instructions,
<http://fapas.com/useful-information/Technical-Documents.cfm>, accessed 10/01/2016.
- 6 AMC Tech Brief No. 74, z-Scores and other scores in chemical proficiency testing – their meanings, and some common misconceptions, *Anal. Methods*, 2016, 8, 5553.
- 7 Thompson, M., Ellison, S.L.R. and Wood, R., 2006, The International Harmonised Protocol for the Proficiency Testing of Analytical Chemistry Laboratories, *Pure Appl. Chem.*, **78**, No. 1, 145–196.
- 8 Lowthian, P.J. and Thompson, M., 2002, Bump-hunting for the proficiency tester – searching for multimodality, *Analyst*, **127**, 1359-1364.

Table 1: Results and z-Scores for *B. cereus* and Aerobic Plate Count in Beef

| laboratory number | <i>B. cereus</i> | | | aerobic plate count | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | assigned value 4.83 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | | assigned value 4.91 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | |
| | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score |
| 002 | 78000 | 4.892 | 0.3 | 78000 | 4.892 | -0.1 |
| 003 | 73000 | 4.863 | 0.1 | 78000 | 4.892 | -0.1 |
| 012 | | | | 1.4E+5 | 5.146 | 0.9 |
| 014 | 71800 | 4.856 | 0.1 | 105000 | 5.021 | 0.4 |
| 015 | 81.2E+3 | 4.910 | 0.3 | 82.4E+3 | 4.916 | 0.0 |
| 017 | | | | 2.0E+4 | 4.301 | -2.4 |
| 021 | 84000 | 4.924 | 0.4 | 76000 | 4.881 | -0.1 |
| 028 | 6.59E+4 | 4.819 | 0.0 | 7.14E+4 | 4.854 | -0.2 |
| 036 | 54000 | 4.732 | -0.4 | 80000 | 4.903 | 0.0 |
| 042 | | | | 1.4E+6 | 6.146 | 4.9 |
| 046 | 1.5E+4 | 4.176 | -2.6 | 1.3E+5 | 5.114 | 0.8 |
| 051 | 1.0E+5 | 5.000 | 0.7 | 1.1E+5 | 5.041 | 0.5 |

z-scores outside |z| >2 are shown in **bold**, see Section 5

Table 1 (continued): Results and z-Scores for *B. cereus* and Aerobic Plate Count in Beef

| laboratory number | <i>B. cereus</i> | | | aerobic plate count | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------------|---------|
| | assigned value 4.83 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | | assigned value 4.91 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | |
| | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score |
| 052 | 7.05E+4 | 4.848 | 0.1 | 8.05E+4 | 4.906 | 0.0 |
| 054 | | | | 8.3E+4 | 4.919 | 0.0 |
| 059 | 6.3E+4 | 4.799 | -0.1 | 6.3E+4 | 4.799 | -0.5 |
| 062 | 4.1E+4 | 4.613 | -0.9 | 9.6E+4 | 4.982 | 0.3 |
| 064 | | | | 8.4E+4 | 4.924 | 0.0 |
| 075 | 8.0E+4 | 4.903 | 0.3 | 1.1E+5 | 5.041 | 0.5 |
| 078 | 61000 | 4.785 | -0.2 | 50000 | 4.699 | -0.9 |
| 083 | * | 4.886 | 0.2 | 8.8E+4 | 4.944 | 0.1 |
| 091 | 59000 | 4.771 | -0.2 | 84000 | 4.924 | 0.0 |
| 092 | 5.5E+4 | 4.740 | -0.3 | 6.9E+4 | 4.839 | -0.3 |
| 093 | 40000 | 4.602 | -0.9 | | | |
| 094 | 1.5E+5 | 5.176 | 1.4 | | | |

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 1 (continued): Results and z-Scores for *B. cereus* and Aerobic Plate Count in Beef

| laboratory number | <i>B. cereus</i> | | | aerobic plate count | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
| | assigned value 4.83 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | | assigned value 4.91 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | |
| | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score |
| 103 | 8.2E+4 | 4.914 | 0.3 | 9.9E+4 | 4.996 | 0.3 |
| 138 | * | 6.5E+4 | 4.813 | -0.1 | | |
| 139 | * | 2.82E+4 | 4.450 | -1.5 | | |
| 149 | 105000 | 5.021 | 0.8 | 59545 | 4.775 | -0.6 |
| 167 | 84000 | 4.924 | 0.4 | | | |
| 172 | 65000 | 4.813 | -0.1 | 75000 | 4.875 | -0.1 |
| 174 | 35500 | 4.550 | -1.1 | 43650 | 4.640 | -1.1 |
| 178 | 8.9E+4 | 4.949 | 0.5 | 9.2E+4 | 4.964 | 0.2 |
| 181 | * | 5.75E+4 | 4.760 | -0.3 | | |
| 187 | 9.3E+4 | 4.968 | 0.6 | 6.1E+4 | 4.785 | -0.5 |
| 195 | | | | 3.0E+9 | 9.477 | 18.3 |

z-scores outside |z| >2 are shown in **bold**, see Section 5

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 2: Results and z-Scores for Coliforms in Milk Powder

| laboratory number | coliforms | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| | result, cfu/g | result, \log_{10} cfu/g | z-score | most probable number technique used † |
| 001 | 2.7E+3 | 3.431 | -2.2 | No |
| 004 | 1.2E+4 | 4.079 | 0.4 | No |
| 005 | 7.6E+3 | 3.881 | -0.4 | NO |
| 006 | 3.1E+3 | 3.491 | -1.9 | No |
| 008 | 2.3E+4 | 4.362 | 1.6 | NO |
| 009 | 7.0E+2 | 2.845 | -4.5 | no |
| 010 | 1.41E+3 | 3.149 | -3.3 | yes |
| 011 | 6.8E+2 | 2.833 | -4.6 | No |
| 012 | 8.9E+3 | 3.949 | -0.1 | no |
| 016 | 7.1E+2 | 2.851 | -4.5 | NO |
| 024 | 1.5E+4 | 4.176 | 0.8 | NO |
| 027 | 9700 | 3.987 | 0.1 | no |
| 030 | 350 | 2.544 | -5.7 | ?yes |
| 031 | 1.5E+4 | 4.176 | 0.8 | yes |
| 040 | 1.1E+3 | 3.041 | -3.7 | yes |
| 042 | 7.3E3 | 3.863 | -0.4 | NO |
| 055 | 12000 | 4.079 | 0.4 | no |
| 062 | 7.0E+3 | 3.845 | -0.5 | NO |
| 069 | 4.6E+3 | 3.663 | -1.2 | yes |
| 074 | 1.2E+4 | 4.079 | 0.4 | NO |
| 078 | 9400 | 3.973 | 0.0 | yes |
| 080 | 244 | 2.387 | -6.3 | no |
| 081 | * | 1.301 | -10.7 | No |
| 082 | 6.0E+3 | 3.778 | -0.8 | no |

z-scores outside $|z| > 2$ are shown in bold, see Section 5

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

† information as supplied by participants

Table 2 (continued): Results and z-Scores for Coliforms in Milk Powder

| laboratory number | coliforms | | | | most probable number technique used † | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | assigned value 3.97 log ₁₀ cfu/g | | | | | |
| | result, cfu/g | result, log ₁₀ cfu/g | z-score | | | |
| 094 | 8.7E+3 | 3.940 | -0.1 | | no | |
| 105 | * | 1.58E+3 | 3.199 | -3.1 | 14.03.2017 | |
| 117 | | 1.0E+4 | 4.000 | 0.1 | no | |
| 118 | | 1.5E+6 | 6.176 | 8.8 | no | |
| 122 | * | 8.8E+3 | 3.944 | -0.1 | no | |
| 135 | | 5.5E+3 | 3.740 | -0.9 | no | |
| 136 | | 1.02E+4 | 4.009 | 0.1 | yes | |
| 139 | * | 1.0E+4 | 4.000 | 0.1 | no | |
| 145 | | 9050 | 3.957 | -0.1 | yes | |
| 147 | * | 1.7E+3 | 3.230 | -3.0 | yes | |
| 151 | | 7.5E+3 | 3.875 | -0.4 | NO | |
| 170 | | 1.33E+4 | 4.124 | 0.6 | no | |
| 171 | | 1.1E+4 | 4.041 | 0.3 | NO | |
| 175 | | 6.2E+3 | 3.792 | -0.7 | yes | |
| 176 | | 2.4E+3 | 3.380 | -2.4 | yes | |
| 178 | | 1.1E+4 | 4.041 | 0.3 | No | |
| 179 | | 1.0E+4 | 4.000 | 0.1 | no | |
| 182 | * | 1.145E+4 | 4.059 | 0.3 | no | |
| 185 | | 2180 | 3.338 | -2.5 | No | |
| 187 | | 5.7E+2 | 2.756 | -4.9 | No | |
| 192 | | 203 | 2.307 | -6.7 | No | |

z-scores outside $|z| > 2$ are shown in **bold**, see Section 5

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

† information as supplied by participants

Table 3: Results and Assessments for *C. sakazakii* in Infant Formula

| laboratory number | <i>C. sakazakii</i> | | assessment |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | |
| | present | absent | |
| 022 | detected | not detected | S |
| 036 | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 043 | detected | not detected | S |
| 044 | detected | not detected | S |
| 049 | detected | not detected | S |
| 057 | detected | not detected | S |
| 060 | detected | not detected | S |
| 061 | detected | not detected | S |
| 063 | detected | detected | NS |
| 076 | detected | not detected | S |
| 078 | detected | not detected | S |
| 087 | detected | not detected | S |
| 091 | detected | not detected | S |
| 094 | detected | not detected | S |
| 099 | detected | not detected | S |
| 100 | detected | not detected | S |
| 106 | detected | not detected | S |
| 108 | detected | not detected | S |
| 110 | detected | not detected | S |
| 118 | detected | not detected | S |
| 119 | detected | not detected | S |
| 123 | detected | not detected | S |
| 127 | detected | not detected | S |
| 129 | detected | not detected | S |
| 130 | detected | not detected | S |
| 133 | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 137 | detected | not detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

Table 3 (continued): Results and Assessments for *C. sakazakii* in Infant Formula

| laboratory number | <i>C. sakazakii</i> | | assessment |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | test material A | test material B | |
| | present | absent | |
| 141 | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 142 | detected | not detected | S |
| 143 | detected | not detected | S |
| 146 | detected | not detected | S |
| 148 | detected | not detected | S |
| 149 | detected | not detected | S |
| 152 | detected | not detected | S |
| 159 | detected | not detected | S |
| 164 | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 169 | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 177 | * | not detected | detected |
| 178 | detected | not detected | S |
| 184 | * | not detected | not detected |
| 189 | not detected | not detected | NS |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 4: Results and Assessments for *L. monocytogenes* and *Listeria* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> | | | <i>Listeria</i> spp. | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | assessment | test material A | test material B | assessment |
| | | | | absent | present | |
| 018 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 020 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 023 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 026 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 033 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 034 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 035 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 036 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 037 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 045 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 047 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 048 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 056 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 059 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

Table 4 (continued): Results and Assessments for *L. monocytogenes* and *Listeria* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> | | | <i>Listeria</i> spp. | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | assessment | test material A | test material B | assessment |
| | | | | absent | present | |
| 065 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 070 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 077 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 078 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 079 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 085 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 089 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 090 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 091 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 095 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 096 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 101 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 102 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 103 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

Table 4 (continued): Results and Assessments for *L. monocytogenes* and *Listeria* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> | | | <i>Listeria</i> spp. | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | assessment | test material A | test material B | assessment |
| | | | | absent | present | |
| 106 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 109 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 111 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 112 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 113 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 114 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 115 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 116 | | not detected | | | detected | |
| 119 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 121 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 122 | * | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 125 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 128 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 131 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 4 (continued): Results and Assessments for *L. monocytogenes* and *Listeria* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> | | | <i>Listeria</i> spp. | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | assessment | test material A | test material B | assessment |
| | | | | absent | present | |
| 132 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 140 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 151 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 152 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 153 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 155 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 157 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 158 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 160 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 161 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 163 | * | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 165 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | | |
| 167 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 168 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 173 | | | | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 4 (continued): Results and Assessments for *L. monocytogenes* and *Listeria* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>L. monocytogenes</i> | | | <i>Listeria</i> spp. | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | assessment | test material A | test material B | assessment |
| | | | | absent | present | |
| 180 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 183 | not detected | detected | S | not detected | detected | S |
| 191 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 193 | not detected | not detected | NS | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 194 | not detected | detected | S | | | |
| 198 | * | not detected | S | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 5: Results and Assessments for *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken

| laboratory number | <i>Salmonella</i> spp. | | assessment |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | |
| | absent | present | |
| 006 | not detected | detected | S |
| 008 | not detected | detected | S |
| 013 | not detected | detected | S |
| 029 | not detected | detected | S |
| 032 | not detected | detected | S |
| 036 | not detected | detected | S |
| 041 | not detected | detected | S |
| 045 | not detected | detected | S |
| 050 | * | detected | S |
| 053 | not detected | detected | S |
| 055 | not detected | detected | S |
| 059 | not detected | detected | S |
| 062 | not detected | detected | S |
| 064 | not detected | detected | S |
| 071 | not detected | detected | S |
| 072 | not detected | detected | S |
| 073 | not detected | detected | S |
| 074 | not detected | detected | S |
| 075 | not detected | detected | S |
| 078 | not detected | detected | S |
| 082 | not detected | detected | S |
| 084 | # | detected | S |
| 089 | not detected | detected | S |
| 091 | not detected | detected | S |
| 093 | not detected | detected | S |
| 096 | not detected | detected | S |
| 103 | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

PCR used

Table 5 (continued): Results and Assessments for *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken

| laboratory number | <i>Salmonella</i> spp. | | assessment |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | |
| | absent | present | |
| 107 | not detected | detected | S |
| 120 | * | not detected | detected |
| 124 | * | not detected | detected |
| 126 | not detected | detected | S |
| 130 | not detected | detected | S |
| 134 | * | not detected | detected |
| 138 | * | not detected | detected |
| 140 | not detected | detected | S |
| 144 | not detected | detected | S |
| 148 | not detected | detected | S |
| 153 | not detected | detected | S |
| 154 | not detected | detected | S |
| 160 | not detected | detected | S |
| 162 | * | not detected | detected |
| 166 | * | not detected | detected |
| 174 | not detected | detected | S |
| 182 | * | not detected | detected |
| 186 | not detected | detected | S |
| 188 | not detected | detected | S |
| 192 | not detected | detected | S |
| 196 | not detected | | |
| 197 | not detected | detected | S |

S = satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 6: Results and Assessments for *Salmonella* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>Salmonella</i> spp. | | assessment |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| | test material A | test material B | |
| | present | absent | |
| 007 | detected | not detected | S |
| 018 | detected | not detected | S |
| 019 | detected | not detected | S |
| 020 | detected | detected | NS |
| 025 | detected | not detected | S |
| 033 | detected | not detected | S |
| 034 | detected | not detected | S |
| 035 | detected | not detected | S |
| 036 | detected | not detected | S |
| 037 | detected | not detected | S |
| 038 | detected | not detected | S |
| 039 | detected | not detected | S |
| 045 | detected | not detected | S |
| 047 | detected | not detected | S |
| 048 | detected | not detected | S |
| 058 | detected | not detected | S |
| 059 | detected | not detected | S |
| 065 | detected | not detected | S |
| 066 | detected | not detected | S |
| 067 | detected | not detected | S |
| 068 | detected | not detected | S |
| 071 | detected | not detected | S |
| 078 | detected | not detected | S |
| 085 | detected | not detected | S |
| 086 | detected | not detected | S |
| 088 | detected | not detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

Table 6 (continued): Results and Assessments for *Salmonella* spp. on Sponge Swab.

| laboratory number | <i>Salmonella</i> spp. | | assessment |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | test material A | test material B | |
| | present | absent | |
| 089 | detected | not detected | S |
| 095 | detected | not detected | S |
| 097 | detected | not detected | S |
| 098 | detected | not detected | S |
| 101 | detected | not detected | S |
| 102 | detected | not detected | S |
| 103 | detected | not detected | S |
| 104 | detected | not detected | S |
| 106 | detected | not detected | S |
| 119 | detected | not detected | S |
| 121 | detected | not detected | S |
| 123 | detected | not detected | S |
| 124 | * | detected | not detected |
| 128 | detected | not detected | S |
| 131 | detected | not detected | S |
| 132 | detected | not detected | S |
| 140 | detected | not detected | S |
| 150 | # | detected | not detected |
| 151 | detected | not detected | S |
| 152 | detected | not detected | S |
| 155 | detected | not detected | S |
| 156 | * | detected | not detected |
| 157 | not detected | detected | NS |
| 158 | not detected | not detected | NS |
| 160 | detected | not detected | S |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

sample received outside of the recommended timeframe for analysis

Table 6 (continued): Results and Assessments for *Salmonella* spp. on Sponge Swab

| laboratory number | <i>Salmonella</i> spp. | | assessment | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----|
| | test material A | test material B | | |
| | present | absent | | |
| 162 | * | detected | not detected | S |
| 163 | * | detected | not detected | S |
| 173 | | detected | detected | NS |
| 182 | * | detected | not detected | S |
| 190 | | detected | not detected | S |
| 191 | | detected | not detected | S |
| 193 | | detected | not detected | S |
| 194 | | detected | detected | NS |

S = satisfactory

NS = not satisfactory

* tested outside of the time frame recommended for analysis

Table 7: Assigned Values and Standard Deviations for Enumeration Tests

| proficiency test | <i>n</i> | data points, assigned value, x_a , uncertainty, $\log_{10}\text{cfu/g}$ | <i>u</i> | standard deviation for proficiency, σ_p , $\log_{10}\text{cfu/g}$ |
|---|----------|---|----------|--|
| enumeration of <i>B. cereus</i> in beef | 29 | 4.83 | 0.027 | 0.25 |
| aerobic plate count in beef | 28 | 4.91 | 0.024 | 0.25 |
| enumeration of coliforms in milk powder | 45 | 3.97 | 0.034 | 0.25 |

Table 8: Number and Percentage of z-Scores where $|z| \leq 2$

| proficiency test | number of scores where $ z \leq 2$ | total number of scores | % $ z \leq 2$ |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| enumeration of <i>B. cereus</i> in beef | 28 | 29 | 97 |
| aerobic plate count in beef | 26 | 29 | 90 |
| enumeration of coliforms in milk powder | 29 | 45 | 64 |

Table 9: Intended Results for Proficiency Tests in Detection

| proficiency test | test material A | test material B |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| detection of <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> in infant formula | detected | not detected |
| detection of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> on sponge swab | not detected | detected |
| detection of <i>Listeria</i> spp. on sponge swab | not detected | detected |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in chicken | not detected | detected |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. on sponge swab | detected | not detected |

Table 10: Number and Percentage of Satisfactory Assessments and False Results for Proficiency Tests in Detection

| proficiency test | number of satisfactory assessments | total number of assessments | satisfactory / agreement with intended result % | false negatives % | false positives % |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| detection of <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> in infant formula | 32 | 41 | 78 | 20 | 5 |
| detection of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> on sponge swab | 60 | 61 | 98 | 3 | 0 |
| detection of <i>Listeria</i> spp. on sponge swab | 40 | 45 | 89 | 11 | 0 |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. in chicken | 48 | 48 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. on sponge swab | 54 | 59 | 92 | 3 | 7 |

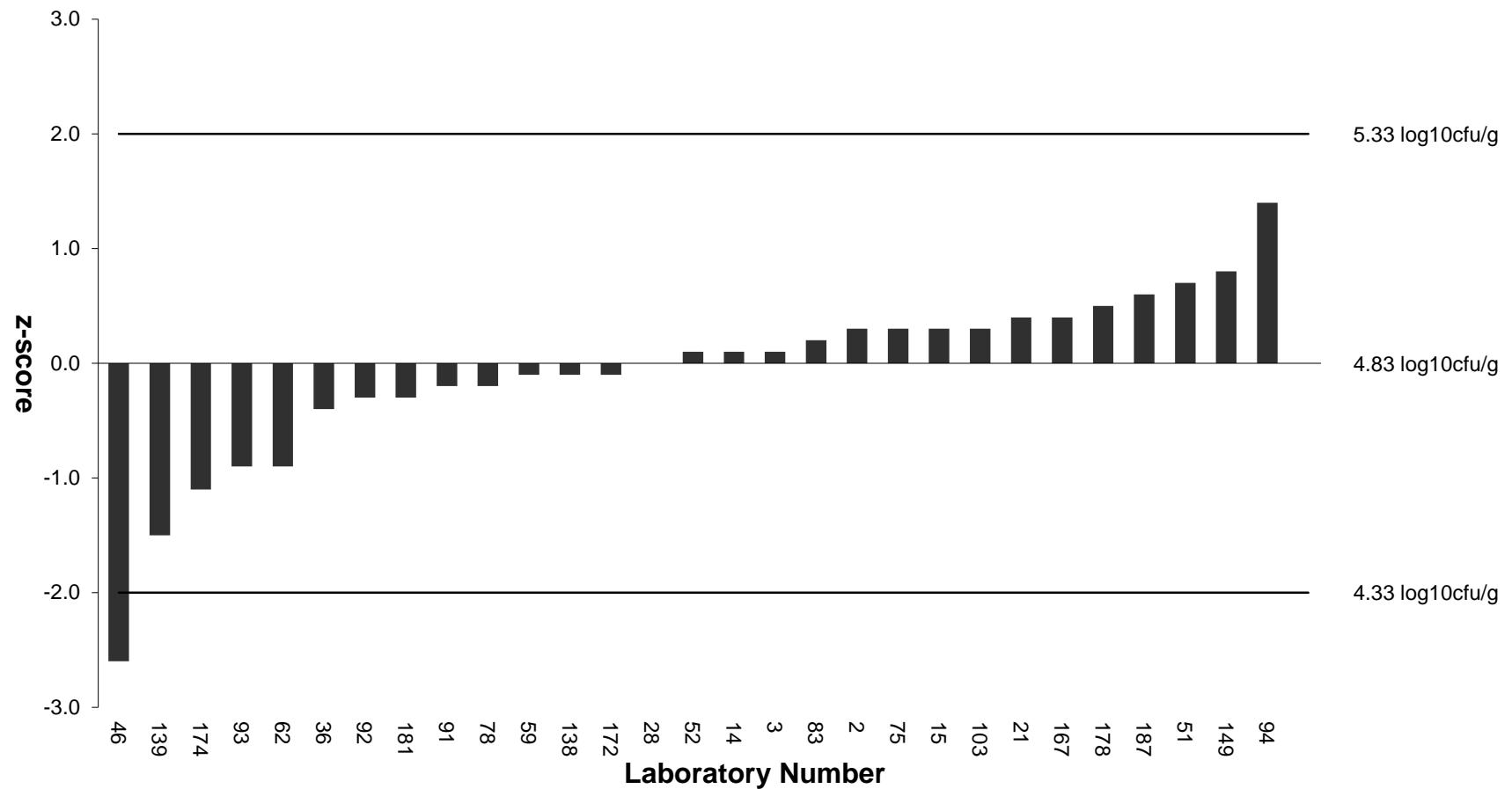


Figure 1: z-Scores for *B. cereus* in Beef

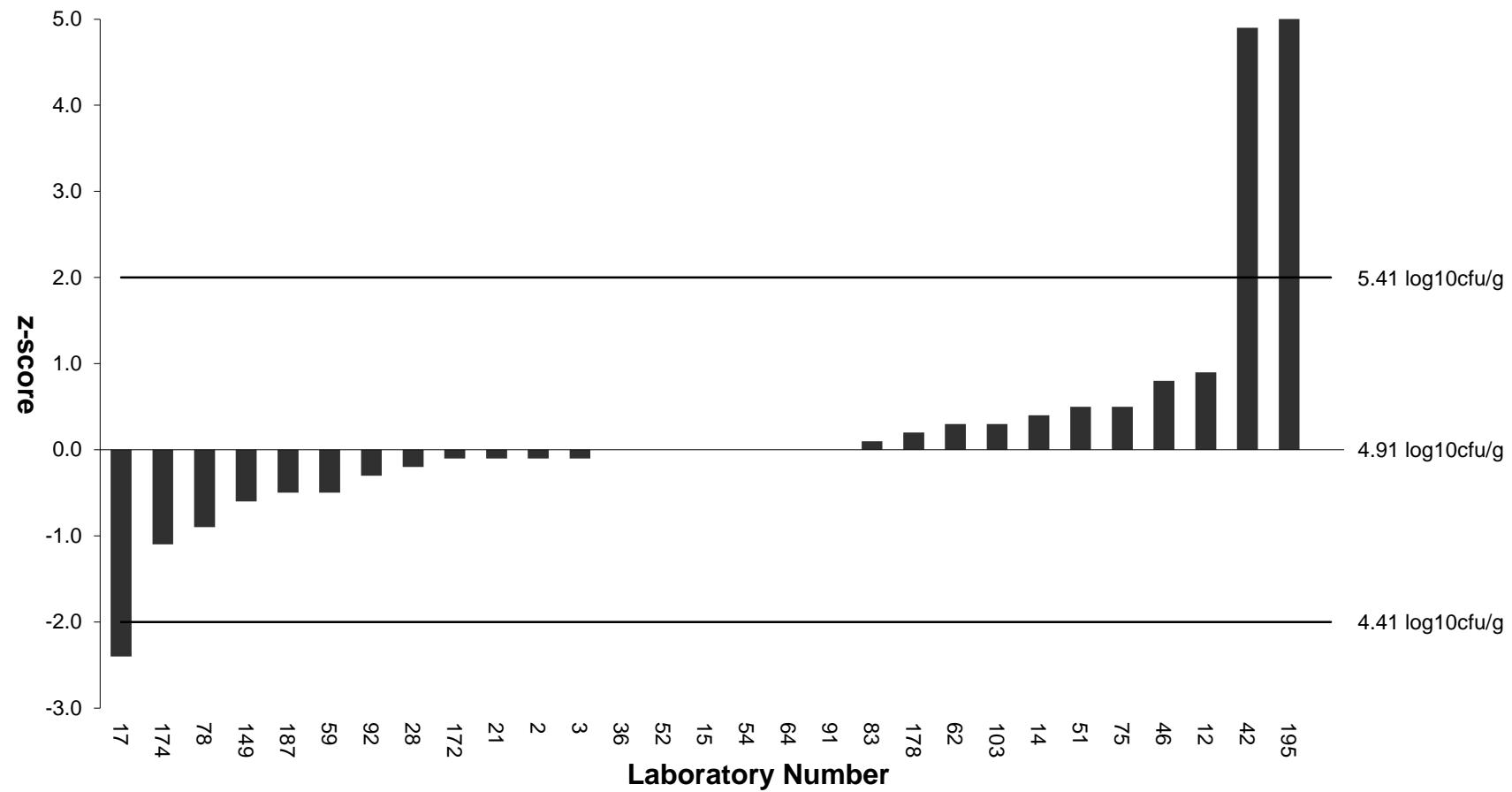


Figure 2: z-Scores for Aerobic Plate Count in Beef

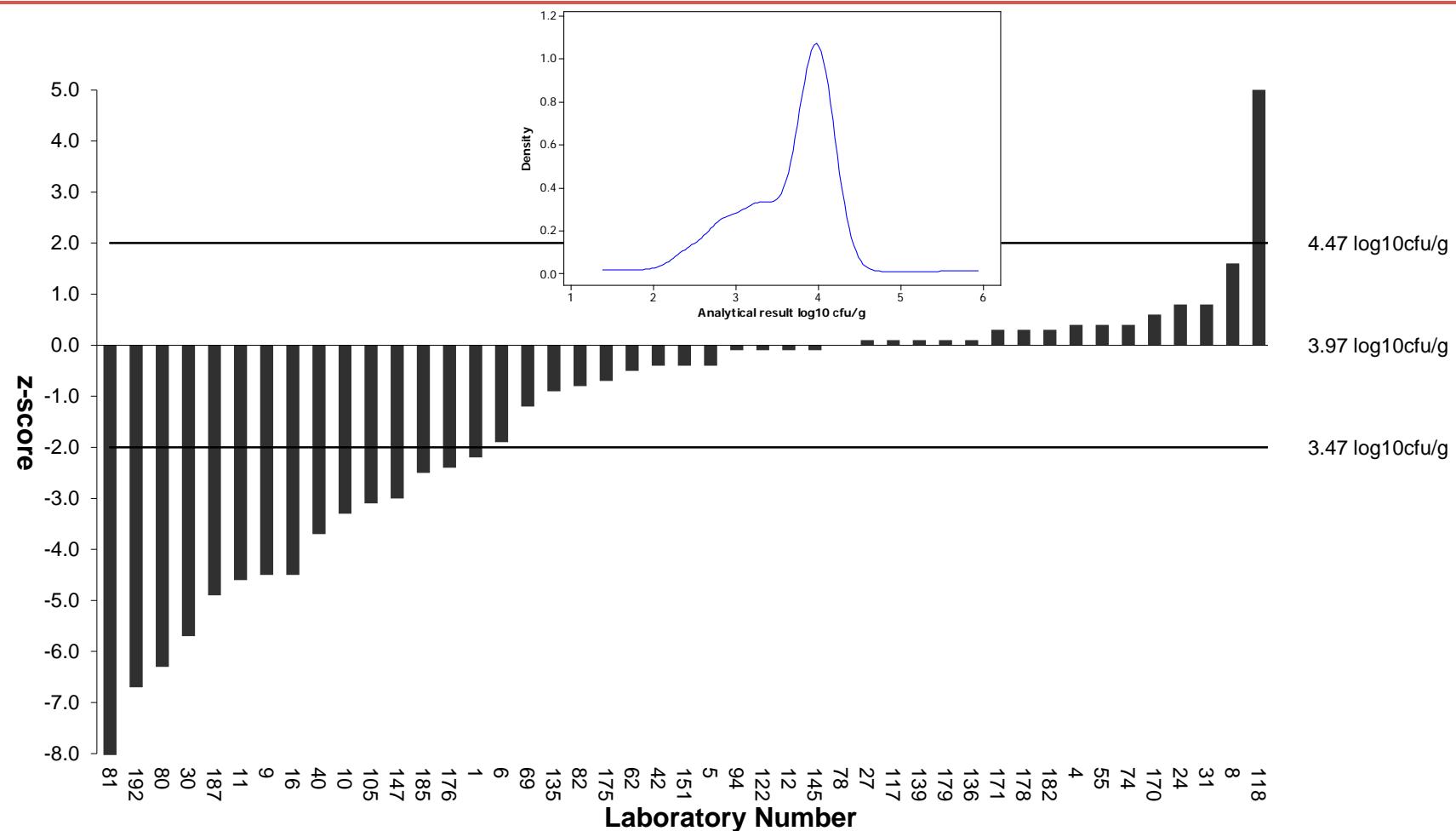


Figure 3: z-Scores for Coliforms in Milk Powder

Insert presents the kernel density plot

APPENDIX I: Organisms present in Fapas® – Food Microbiology Test Materials

| proficiency test | matrix | target organism | background flora |
|--|----------------|---|--|
| enumeration of <i>B. cereus</i> | beef | <i>Bacillus cereus</i> | <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> <i>Kocuria rhizophila</i> <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> |
| aerobic plate count | beef | <i>B. cereus</i> <i>L. plantarum</i> <i>K. rhizophila</i> <i>P. aeruginosa</i> | n/a |
| enumeration of coliforms | milk powder | <i>Escherichia coli</i> | <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> |
| detection of <i>C. sakazakii</i> test material A | infant formula | <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> | <i>E. coli</i> |
| detection of <i>C. sakazakii</i> test material B | infant formula | none | <i>E. coli</i> |
| detection of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> / <i>Listeria</i> spp. test material A | sponge swab | none | <i>E. coli</i> <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> <i>Citrobacter freundii</i> |
| detection of <i>L. monocytogenes</i> / <i>Listeria</i> spp. test material B | sponge swab | <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> | <i>E. coli</i> <i>B. subtilis</i> <i>C. freundii</i> |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. test material A | chicken | none | <i>C. freundii</i> <i>Proteus mirabilis</i> <i>B. cereus</i> |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. test material B | chicken | <i>Salmonella Cerro</i> | <i>E. coli</i> <i>P. mirabilis</i> <i>B. cereus</i> |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. test material A | sponge swab | <i>Salmonella Cerro</i> | <i>E. coli</i> <i>B. subtilis</i> <i>K. rhizophila</i> |
| detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. test material B | sponge swab | none | <i>E. coli</i> <i>B. subtilis</i> <i>K. rhizophila</i> |

n/a not applicable

APPENDIX II: Verification of Positive Qualitative Test Materials

| target organism | level of target organism, as assessed by the most probable number technique, MPN/g |
|---|--|
| <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> in infant formula | 920.0 (280 to 3000*) / 1600 (530 to 4900*) |
| <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> on sponge swab | 540.0 (160 to 1900*) / 540.0 (160 to 1900*) |
| <i>Salmonella Cerro</i> in chicken | 17.0 (6.3 to 45*) / 17.0 (6.3 to 45*) |
| <i>Salmonella Cerro</i> on sponge swab | >1600 />1600 |

*confidence limit at >95%

APPENDIX III: Analytical Methods Used by Participants

Methods are tabulated according to the information supplied by participants, but some responses may have been combined or edited for clarity.

Enumeration of *B. cereus* and Aerobic Plate Count

| Accredited Method Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| yes | 012 015 017 021 028 046 051 059 062 083 092 103 149 167 174 178 187 195 |
| Method Based on an International Standard | laboratory number |
| yes | 012 015 017 021 046 051 059 062 083 092 103 149 174 178 187 195 |
| no | 028 167 |
| Which International Standard | laboratory number |
| APC (pour plate) ISO 4833-1:2013 | 012 015 017 021 046 |
| APC (spread plate) ISO 4833-1:2013 | 149 195 |
| APC ISO 4833:2003 | 103 |
| APC FDA/BAM Chapter 3 | 092 |
| APC AOAC 990.12 | 083 |
| Bacillus Cereus enumeration FDA/BAM Chapter 14 | 187 |
| Bacillus Cereus enumeration ISO 7932:2004 | 051 059 149 |
| Salmonella spp. detection ISO 6579:2002/Amd 1:2007 | 149 |
| CCFRA-3.7.1:2007 | 174 |
| Which Initial Suspension/Diluent Used | laboratory number |
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 012 015 017 046 051 062 083 174 195 |
| Butterfield's Phosphate Buffer | 178 187 |
| Maximum Recovery Diluent (MRD) | 103 |
| Peptone Water | 021 028 059 092 149 167 |
| Which Primary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 017 062 083 092 149 |
| Listeria Enrichment Broth 1 (LEB) | 167 |
| Which Secondary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Broth (RV) | 092 |
| Tetrathionate Broth | 149 |
| Plating Method Used | laboratory number |
| Pour plate | 012 015 017 021 046 062 092 103 |
| Spread plate | 028 051 059 083 149 167 174 178 187 195 |

| Inoculum Volume (ml) | laboratory number |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0.1 | 028 051 059 083 149 174 178 187 195 |
| 1.0 | 015 017 021 046 092 103 |

| Alternative/Rapid Method | laboratory number |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Petrifilm (3M) | 083 |

| Incubation Temperature (°C) | laboratory number |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 25 | 092 |
| 30 | 012 015 017 021 028 046 051 059 062 103 178 187 195 |
| 35 | 083 167 |
| 37 | 149 174 |

| Time Incubated (hours) Approximately | laboratory number |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 18 | 178 |
| 24 | 015 059 083 174 187 |
| 48 | 028 051 149 167 |
| 60 | 017 021 046 092 103 195 |

| Confirmation of Organism's Identity | laboratory number |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| API 50 CH | 083 149 167 174 |
| Fermentation of Carbohydrates | 051 |
| Haemolysis | 059 |
| Latex slide agglutination | 092 |
| Morphology | 015 028 |
| Microscopy | 028 |
| Nitrate/nitrite reduction | 051 |
| VITEK | 028 178 |

| Selective/Chromogenic Medium Used for <i>B. cereus</i> | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| Bacillus Cereus Agar (BCA) | 167 174 |
| Mannitol Egg Yolk Polymixin B Agar (MYP) | 021 046 051 059 062 083 092 103 178 187 |
| PEMBA | 149 |
| Bacara agar | 178 |
| Bacillus cereus Chromogenic Medium (BACARA) | 015 |

| Selective/Chromogenic Medium Used for APC | laboratory number |
|---|--|
| Petrifilm (3M) Aerobic Plate Count | 062 083 |
| Plate Count Agar (PCA) | 012 015 017 021 046 051 059 092 103 149 174 178 187 195 |

Enumeration of Coliforms

| Accredited Method Used | laboratory number |
|-------------------------------|---|
| yes | 004 008 010 011 012 016 024 031 040 069 082 118 122 135 136 147 171 178 179 187 192 |
| no | 001 005 009 055 062 105 117 145 151 182 |

| Method Based on an International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| yes | 004 005 008 009 010 011 012 016 024 031 040 055 062 082 105 118 122 135 136 145 147 151 171 178 179 182 187 192 |
| no | 001 117 |

| Which International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| APC AOAC 990.12 | 171 |
| Coliforms enumeration ISO 4832:2006 | 004 008 009 011 012 016 024 055 122 151 182 187 |
| Coliforms enumeration AOAC 991.14 | 005 010 082 135 |
| Coliforms enumeration (MPN) ISO 4831:2006 | 040 |
| Enumeration of coliform bacteria in food products using 3M petrifilm coliform count plates | 062 |
| IS-5401 (Part -II); 2012 | 192 |
| Most Probable Number and chromocult | 136 |
| TFDA 1021950329 | 031 |

| Which Initial Suspension/Diluent Used | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 004 009 011 012 016 040 055 062 105 145 |
| Butterfield's Phosphate Buffer | 010 136 178 192 |
| Maximum Recovery Diluent (MRD) | 008 024 182 |
| Peptone Water | 005 031 082 187 |
| Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) | 069 118 179 |
| Ringer's Solution | 122 147 171 |
| Tryptone Water | 151 |

| Which Primary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 012 016 055 062 105 145 192 |
| Fraser Broth | 024 |
| Modified Lauryl Sulphate Tryptose Broth (mLST) | 069 136 |
| Lauryl Sulphate Broth | 004 040 |

| Which Secondary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|---|--------------------------|
| Brilliant Green Bile Broth (BGBB) | 004 008 |
| Brilliant Green Bile Lactose Broth (BGLB) | 012 024 031 069 136 187 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Soya Peptone(RVS) | 040 |

| Plating Method Used | laboratory number |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pour plate | 001 004 008 009 011 012 016 031 055 062 105 117 122 145 147 187 192 |
| Spread plate | 024 118 171 178 179 182 |
| Overlay | 151 |

| Inoculum Volume (ml) | laboratory number |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 0.01 | 069 |
| 0.1 | 004 024 118 147 |
| 1.0 | 001 005 008 009 010 011 016 031 040 055 062 082 105 117 122 135 136 145 151 171 178 179 187 192 |

| Alternative/Rapid Method | laboratory number |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Most Probable Number - Tube | 069 136 |
| Most probable Number - Automated | 024 |
| Petrifilm (3M) | 005 008 010 031 062 082 135 171 |

| Incubation Temperature (°C) | laboratory number |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 30 | 012 151 |
| 35 | 001 005 008 010 031 069 082 118 135 136 145 171 178 179 192 |
| 37 | 004 009 011 016 024 040 055 062 105 117 122 147 182 187 |

| Time Incubated (hours) Approximately | laboratory number |
|---|---|
| 18 | 117 178 |
| 24 | 001 004 005 008 009 010 011 012 016 024 055 062 082 105 122 135 145 147 151 171 182 187 |
| 48 | 040 069 118 136 179 192 |
| 60 | 031 |

| Confirmation of Organism's Identity | laboratory number |
|--|--------------------------|
| API 20E | 118 182 |
| API RapidID 20E | 122 |
| Coagulase reaction - tube test | 179 |
| Fermentation of Carbohydrates | 192 |
| Morphology | 031 122 192 |
| Microscopy | 122 |
| Oxidase reaction | 004 122 147 |
| VITEK | 024 171 178 |

| Selective/Chromogenic Medium Used | laboratory number |
|---|--------------------------|
| Brilliant Green Bile Lactose Broth (BGLB) | 031 040 055 069 187 |
| Chromocult Coliform Agar | 008 118 136 147 178 179 |
| Endo Agar | 004 122 |
| Petrifilm (3M) Colliforms | 010 062 082 135 171 |
| Violet Red Bile Agar (VRB) | 011 024 105 145 151 |
| Violet Red Bile Lactose Agar (VRBL) | 009 012 016 122 187 192 |
| Deoxycholate Lactose Agar | 001 |
| XM-G Agar | 117 |

Detection of *Cronobacter sakazakii*

| Accredited Method Used | laboratory number |
|-------------------------------|---|
| yes | 043 057 060 061 063 076 087 106 110 118 119 129 130 133 137 141 142 146 148 149 159 169 178 184 |
| no | 022 049 108 143 164 |

| Method Based on an International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| yes | 022 043 049 057 060 063 076 087 106 108 110 118 119 129 130 133 137 141 142 143 146 148 149 164 169 178 184 |
| no | 061 159 |

| Which International Standard | laboratory number |
|---|--|
| APC ISO 4833:2003 | 119 |
| Cronobacter sakazakii detection ISO/TS 22964:2006 (IDF/RM 210:2006) | 043 060 063 076 087 106 108 129 130 133 137 141 142 143 146 149 159 164 169 184 |
| based on DIN EN ISO 22964 2015 | 049 |

| Which Initial Suspension/Diluent Used | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 022 043 057 060 061 063 076 087 106 108 118 119 129 130 137 141 142 143 146 149 164 184 |

| Which Primary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 022 049 133 149 159 178 |
| Enterobacteriaceae Enrichment broth (EE) | 118 148 |
| Modified Lauryl Sulphate Tryptose Broth (mLST) | 043 057 061 063 076 087 106 119 129 130 137 141 142 146 164 184 |
| Lauryl Sulphate Broth | 060 |

| Plating Method Used | laboratory number |
|----------------------------|--|
| Spread plate | 043 057 060 061 076 087 106 108 130 143 159 164 |
| Overlay | 063 |

| Inoculum Volume (ml) | laboratory number |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 0.001 | 061 |
| 0.01 | 130 143 |
| 0.1 | 043 060 087 106 108 159 |
| 1.0 | 057 063 |
| >2.0 | 148 |

| Alternative/Rapid Method | laboratory number |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Compact dry | 063 |
| PCR | 022 061 129 164 |

| Incubation Temperature (°C) | laboratory number |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 35 | 118 148 178 |
| 37 | 022 049 061 119 129 |
| 44 | 043 057 060 063 076 087 106 108 130 137 141 142 143 149 159 164 |

| Time Incubated (hours) Approximately | laboratory number |
|---|--|
| 18 | 049 119 164 178 |
| 24 | 022 043 057 060 061 063 076 087 106 108 118 129 130 137 141 142 143 148 149 159 |

| Confirmation of Organism's Identity | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| API 20E | 061 063 076 087 106 118 119 130 146 149 159 184 |
| API RapidID 20E | 149 |
| Enterotube (BBL) | 043 |
| Morphology | 129 |
| Microscopy | 061 |
| Ornithine decarboxylase | 143 |
| PCR | 022 049 164 |
| VITEK | 061 108 142 178 |

| Which Selective/Chromogenic Medium Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| Brilliance Enterobacter Sakazakii Agar | 149 178 |
| CHROMagar E.sakazakii Agar | 043 061 |
| Enterobacter sakazakii Isolation Agar (ESIA) | 057 060 063 076 087 106 108 118 119 129 130 137 142 143 146 159 |
| Tryptic Soya Agar | 061 108 130 |
| Violet Red Bile Dextrose Agar (VRBD) | 148 |
| R& F agar | 178 |

Detection of *L. monocytogenes* / *Listeria* spp.

| Accredited Method Used | laboratory number |
|-------------------------------|---|
| yes | 023 047 056 059 070 085 089 103 109 111 112 114 121 122 125 131 132 140 153 157 161 163 165 167 173 183 194 |
| no | 018 033 048 065 077 095 101 106 113 119 151 168 180 191 193 |

| Method Based on an International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| yes | 018 033 047 056 059 065 095 103 106 109 111 112 114 119 121 122 125 131 132 140 151 153 157 161 163 168 173 183 191 193 198 |
| no | 023 048 070 077 085 089 101 113 165 167 180 194 |

| Which International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| APC FDA/BAM Chapter 3 | 173 |
| Listeria monocytogenes detection | 018 103 106 121 194 |
| ISO 11290-1:1996 | |
| Listeria monocytogenes detection | 047 059 065 095 109 112 114 121 122 125 |
| ISO 11290-1:1996/Amd 1:2004 | 140 151 153 157 168 183 |
| Listeria monocytogenes enumeration | 056 131 |
| ISO 11290-2:1998/Amd 1:2004 | |
| BAM | 132 |
| AFNOR Certification Attestation No. BRD-07/04-09/98 | 023 |
| Compass Listeria | 113 |
| Compendium 2015 | 193 |
| Congen Sure Fast ® Listeria monocytogenes PLUS, Version 2.2, 2017-01 | 033 |
| Ensayo VIDAS LMX | 085 |
| FDA-BAM | 119 |
| Listeria monocytogenes FDA/BAM Chapter 10 | 161 |
| MFLP15 | 111 |
| MLG 8A | 191 |
| Palcam broth-Aloa | 077 |
| System Real-Time PCR Assay | 070 |

| Which Initial Suspension/Diluent Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 023 033 065 077 101 106 109 111 113 119 121 122 140 161 167 168 180 198 |
| Half Fraser Broth | 018 047 048 056 070 089 125 131 153 157 183 194 |
| Peptone Water | 095 |
| Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) | 132 |

| Which Primary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|---|---|
| Fraser Broth | 033 131 168 183 |
| Half Fraser Broth | 018 023 047 056 059 065 070 089 095 103 106 109 112 113 114 121 122 125 140 151 153 157 194 |
| Listeria Enrichment Broth 1 (LEB) | 101 119 132 167 180 193 |
| Listeria Enrichment Broth 2 (LEB) | 085 161 |

| Which Secondary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|---|--|
| Bolton Broth | 101 173 |
| Fraser Broth | 047 056 059 095 103 109 112 114 121 122 125 132 140 151 153 157 168 183 194 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Soya Peptone(RVS) | 131 |

| Plating Method Used | laboratory number |
|----------------------------|---|
| Pour plate | 089 |
| Spread plate | 018 023 047 048 056 095 101 103 106 109 111 122 125 131 132 140 151 153 161 167 183 194 |
| Overlay | 059 065 077 121 |

| Inoculum Volume (ml) | laboratory number |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 0.001 | 077 089 109 |
| 0.01 | 059 101 103 111 113 125 153 |
| 0.05 | 056 |
| 0.1 | 018 023 047 048 065 095 106 122 131 132 140 151 161 168 183 194 |
| 1.0 | 121 |
| >2.0 | 198 |

| Alternative/Rapid Method | laboratory number |
|---------------------------------|---|
| MOLDI-TOF | 056 |
| PCR | 033 070 111 114 140 157 161 167 183 191 |
| Petrifilm (3M) | 198 |
| RapidChek | 089 |
| Reveal | 173 |
| VIDAS (ELFA) | 059 085 163 |
| miniVIDAS (ELFA) | 132 |

| Incubation Temperature (°C) | laboratory number |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 30 | 033 059 065 070 077 101 114 119 168 173 180 183 |
| 35 | 111 132 161 165 167 193 |
| 37 | 018 023 047 048 056 085 089 095 103 106 109 112 113 121 122 125 131 140 151 153 157 194 198 |

| Time Incubated (hours) Approximately | laboratory number |
|---|---|
| 18 | 194 |
| 24 | 023 033 059 065 070 085 101 121 131 132 140 151 157 168 173 183 198 |
| 48 | 018 047 048 056 077 089 095 103 106 109 111 112 113 119 122 125 153 161 165 167 180 193 |

| Confirmation of Organism's Identity | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| API Listeria | 047 059 065 095 106 109 114 119 122 140 153 163 180 183 193 |
| CAMP test | 059 101 157 168 |
| Catalase reaction | 059 122 151 168 |
| Fermentation of Carbohydrates | 018 048 059 089 131 165 |
| Haemolysis | 023 059 125 151 153 165 168 |
| Morphology | 059 122 |
| Microscopy | 122 |
| Motility | 059 122 165 168 |
| Microbact 12E | 194 |
| Oxidase reaction | 056 122 |
| PCR | 033 |
| VITEK | 111 121 132 161 167 180 |
| Microbact 12L | 085 112 |

Detection of *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken

| Accredited Method Used | laboratory number |
|-------------------------------|---|
| yes | 008 029 041 053 059 062 082 084 089 103 130 134 140 144 148 153 154 166 174 186 188 192 196 197 |
| no | 055 073 162 182 |

| Method Based on an International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| yes | 008 029 041 053 055 059 062 073 082 084 103 130 134 140 144 148 153 154 166 174 182 186 188 192 196 197 |
| no | 089 162 |

| Which International Standard | laboratory number |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Listeria monocytogenes enumeration ISO 11290-2:1998 | 197 |
| Salmonella spp. detection ISO 6579:2002 | 041 062 073 082 103 134 182 196 |
| Salmonella spp. detection ISO 6579:2002/Amd 1:2007 | 053 084 130 140 153 154 188 |
| Salmonella spp. detection FDA/BAM Chapter 5 | 008 029 166 186 |

| Which International Standard (continued) | laboratory number |
|--|--------------------------|
| AFNOR BKR 23/07-10/11 | 055 |
| IS-5887-part-III: 1999 (Reaffirmed 2005) | 192 |
| Rapid Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> spp. By PCR | 082 |
| Amplification of <i>Salmonella</i> Specific Region in gatD gene. Jpn. J. Food Microbiol., 16(2), 99 – 109. | |
| Vidas SLM (AFNOR No.BOI-12/16-09/05) | 059 |

| Which Initial Suspension/Diluent Used | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 008 029 041 053 055 059 062 073 082 084 130 134 140 144 153 162 166 174 182 186 188 192 196 197 |
| Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) | 089 |

| Which Primary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 008 041 059 062 073 103 140 148 153 154 162 174 182 186 192 197 |
| Mueller Kauffmann Tetrathionate Novobiocin Broth (MKKTn) | 053 082 130 134 196 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Broth (RV) | 144 166 |
| Modified Semi-Solid Rappaport Vassiliadis (MSRV) | 084 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Soya Peptone(RVS) | 082 130 188 196 |

| Which Secondary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|---|--|
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Broth (RV) | 029 073 140 148 186 192 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Soya Peptone(RVS) | 008 041 053 062 103 134 153 154 162 174 182 |
| Tetrathionate Broth | 029 103 140 144 153 166 174 182 186 |

| Plating Method Used | laboratory number |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pour plate | 053 055 089 |
| Spread plate | 008 041 062 073 103 130 134 140 153 154 166 182 192 196 197 |
| Overlay | 059 162 |

| Inoculum Volume (ml) | laboratory number |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0.001 | 089 |
| 0.01 | 041 055 059 062 103 130 153 |
| 0.05 | 008 |
| 0.1 | 073 134 140 154 162 166 188 192 |
| 1.0 | 148 197 |

| Alternative/Rapid Method | laboratory number |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| PCR | 082 084 130 140 182 188 |
| RapidChek | 089 |
| VIDAS (ELFA) | 008 059 196 |
| miniVIDAS (ELFA) | 041 053 |

| Incubation Temperature (°C) | laboratory number |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 35 | 008 144 148 166 |
| 37 | 029 053 059 062 073 082 089 103 130 134 140 153 154 162 174 182 186 192 197 |
| 41.5 | 041 084 |
| 42 | 188 |

| Time Incubated (hours) Approximately | laboratory number |
|---|---|
| 18 | 029 089 140 188 |
| 24 | 008 041 053 055 059 062 073 082 084 103 130 134 144 148 153 154 162 166 174 182 186 192 197 |

| Confirmation of Organism's Identity | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| API 20E | 053 059 062 130 140 153 154 162 174 182 186 196 |
| API RapidID 20E | 008 |
| API Listeria | 197 |
| beta-Galactosidase | 053 082 144 |
| Fermentation of Carbohydrates | 144 |
| IMViC test | 144 |
| Indole production | 053 059 082 144 |
| Latex slide agglutination | 089 140 |
| Lysine Decarboxylase | 053 059 082 144 |
| Lysine Iron Agar | 059 144 |
| Morphology | 082 134 182 192 |
| Microscopy | 144 192 |
| Oxidase reaction | 053 130 |
| Serological agglutination test | 053 059 084 130 134 144 153 182 |
| PCR | 130 140 188 |
| VITEK | 029 041 053 166 |
| Voges-Proskauer (VP) reaction | 053 059 082 144 192 |
| Triple Sugar Iron Agar (TSI) | 053 059 082 134 144 192 |

Detection of *Salmonella* spp. on Sponge swab

| Accredited Method Used | laboratory number |
|-------------------------------|---|
| yes | 007 019 025 038 047 058 059 065 086 088 089 097 103 104 106 121 131 132 140 157 162 163 190 194 |
| no | 018 033 048 066 067 068 085 095 101 119 151 182 191 193 |

| Method Based on an International Standard | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| yes | 007 018 019 025 033 047 048 059 065 086 095 097 103 104 106 119 121 131 132 140 151 157 163 182 190 191 193 |
| no | 038 058 066 067 068 085 088 089 101 162 194 |

| Which International Standard | laboratory number |
|---|---|
| Salmonella spp. detection ISO 6579:2002 | 048 098 103 119 121 131 151 182 194 |
| Salmonella spp. detection ISO 6579:2002/Amd 1:2007 | 018 019 025 047 065 086 095 140 157 190 |
| Salmonella spp. detection ISO 6579:2002/Cor 1:2004 (en) | 059 106 |
| AOAC Official Method 2013.09 | 007 |
| BAM | 132 |
| Compendium 2015 | 193 |
| Congen Sure Fast ® Salmonella ONE, Version 1.2, 2016-12 | 033 |
| MLG 4C | 191 |

| Which Initial Suspension/Diluent Used | laboratory number |
|--|---|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 007 018 019 025 033 047 048 059 065 066 067 068 085 086 088 095 097 098 101 104 106 119 121 131 140 151 157 162 182 194 |
| Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS) | 089 132 |

| Which Primary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| Buffered Peptone Water (BPW) | 007 018 038 048 058 059 086 088 095 097 101 103 121 132 140 157 162 182 190 194 |
| Mueller Kauffmann Tetrathionate Novobiocin Broth (MKKTn) | 065 106 131 151 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Broth (RV) | 025 098 |
| Modified Semi-Solid Rappaport Vassiliadis (MSRV) | 047 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Soya Peptone(RVS) | 047 106 119 151 |
| Tryptone Soya Broth | 193 |

| Which Secondary Enrichment Medium Used | laboratory number |
|---|--|
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Broth (RV) | 018 101 132 140 |
| Rappaport Vassiliadis Soya Peptone(RVS) | 048 058 059 065 095 103 121 131 157 162 190 193 |
| Tetrathionate Broth | 025 048 058 059 095 098 101 103 140 157 182 |

| Plating Method Used | laboratory number |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pour plate | 025 089 |
| Spread plate | 018 047 095 098 101 103 106 131 140 151 182 194 |
| Overlay | 048 059 065 121 162 |

| Inoculum Volume (ml) | laboratory number |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 0.001 | 089 |
| 0.01 | 059 065 066 067 068 101 103 |
| 0.1 | 018 047 048 095 098 106 131 140 151 |
| 1.0 | 025 121 162 190 194 |

| Alternative/Rapid Method | laboratory number |
|---------------------------------|--|
| PCR | 007 019 025 033 104 106 140 157 182 191 194 |
| RapidChek | 089 |
| VIDAS (ELFA) | 085 163 |
| miniVIDAS (ELFA) | 058 059 088 097 132 |

| Incubation Temperature (°C) | laboratory number |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 35 | 098 193 |
| 37 | 007 018 019 025 038 047 048 059 065 066 067 068 085 086 089 095 101 103 104 106 119 121 131 132 140 151 157 162 182 190 194 |
| 41.5 | 033 088 097 |
| 42 | 058 |

| Time Incubated (hours) Approximately | laboratory number |
|---|---|
| 18 | 089 104 119 140 157 190 194 |
| 24 | 007 018 019 025 033 038 047 048 058 059 065 066 067 068 085 086 088 095 097 098 101 103 106 121 131 132 151 162 182 193 |

| Confirmation of Organism's Identity | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| API 10S | 194 |
| API 20E | 038 047 048 085 088 095 097 098 106 119 140 162 163 193 |
| API RapidID 20E | 058 |
| CAMP test | 157 |
| Coagulase reaction - slide test | 007 |
| Enterotube (BBL) | 018 |
| Fermentation of Carbohydrates | 131 |
| IMViC test | 151 |
| Indole production | 038 059 |
| Latex slide agglutination | 089 140 |
| Lysine Decarboxylase | 059 |
| Lysine Iron Agar | 059 101 |
| Morphology | 059 |
| Serological agglutination test | 048 059 086 101 157 182 |
| PCR | 033 140 157 190 |
| VITEK | 101 121 132 |
| Voges-Proskauer (VP) reaction | 059 |
| Triple Sugar Iron Agar (TSI) | 038 059 151 |

| Which Selective/Chromogenic Medium Used | laboratory number |
|--|--|
| Bismuth Sulfite Agar (BSA) | 058 151 |
| Brilliant Green Agar (BGA) | 038 058 059 119 |
| Brilliance Salmonella Agar | 086 194 |
| Chromogenic Salmonella Agar (Oxoid) | 095 140 |
| ChromID Salmonella | 163 |
| Hektoen Agar | 047 |
| MacConkey Agar | 058 098 |
| Rambach Agar | 103 132 |
| Salmonella Chromogenic Medium | 089 106 |
| Xylose Lysine Desoxycholate Agar (XLD) | 018 047 048 059 085 088 095 103 104 106 119 140 190 194 |
| XTL-4 Agar | 151 |
| aloa | 163 |
| ASAP | 018 048 |
| Chrom ID salmo | 059 |
| Cromogénico Salmonella Plus Chromagar | 065 |
| DHL Agar | 038 |
| IBISA Agar | 086 |
| PCR | 007 033 |
| Rapid' Salmonella (Bio-rad) | 066 067 068 |

APPENDIX IV: Fapas® SecureWeb, Protocol and Contact Details

1. Fapas® SECUREWEB

Access to the secure area of our website is only available to participants in our proficiency tests. Please contact us if you require a UserID and Password. Fapas® SecureWeb allows participants to:

- Obtain their laboratory numbers for the proficiency tests in which they have participated.
- View the results they submitted in past and current proficiency tests.
- Submit their results and methods for current tests.
- Review future tests they have ordered.
- Order proficiency tests, reference materials and quality control materials.
- Freely download copies of reports, in Acrobat PDF format, of proficiency tests in which they have participated.

2. PROTOCOL

The Protocols [3, 4] set out how Fapas® – Food Microbiology is organised. Copies can be downloaded from our website.

3. CONTACT DETAILS

This report was prepared and authorised on behalf of Fapas® by Rosemary A Smith (Round Coordinator). Participants with any comments or concerns about this proficiency test should contact:

Fapas®
Fera Science Ltd (Fera)
National Agri-Food Innovation Campus
Sand Hutton
York
YO41 1LZ
UK

Tel: +44 (0)1904 462100
Fax: +44 (0)1904 500440

info@fapas.com

www.fapas.com