



Standard Operating Procedure

R-CARD™ Test Method, General Use

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Summary Description

The R-CARD™ consists of a “bottom piece” (3½ in. X 4 in. with printing and ½ inch imprinted squares), a clear film “top piece” that contains a powder formulation on the underside, and a text imprint at the top indicating the formulation type (e.g.—“ECC” for E. Coli / Coliform, “ENTEROCOCCUS”, etc.) The “top piece” is pre-attached to the bottom piece unless otherwise designated.

Procedure

1. Collect sample or prepare inoculum
2. Place R-CARD™ on a flat, level surface. Using a sterile forceps (or other clean tool), lift the top piece (by grasping a bottom corner) and deposit 1mL of the sample (INOCULUM) onto the center of the bottom piece. Up to 2 mL of inoculum may generally be used if desired, but care should be exercised to avoid inoculum flow beyond the edges of the top piece.
3. Lower the top piece down onto the sample.
4. Allow the sample to spread into a circular pattern between the top piece and the bottom piece. The entire sample should be contained within the area of the top piece if the procedure is properly done. No spreader tool or other assistance should be needed, but if a larger covered area is desired, a gentle presser with a finger or other device can be used on the top piece.
5. Place the inoculated R-CARD™ (right side up) into an incubator preset at the preferred temperature, according to specific test protocol. R-CARD™ tests may be stacked on top of each other, not to exceed 15 tests.
6. Incubate for prescribed times and observe and record the results.
7. The R-CARD™ can be photographed and transferred to a computer where the results may be counted, recorded, and analyzed.
8. Disposal of R-CARD™ tests may be done by autoclaving or use of other means that results in the sterilization of the microbes in the sample layer. The used cards may be kept for longer periods of time for future reference if proper safeguards are observed to prevent the escape of the microbes contained. A relatively permanent storage solution is to laminate the card between pieces of plastic.