

### Application Note for Deliberate Sample Inoculation ('Spiked samples')

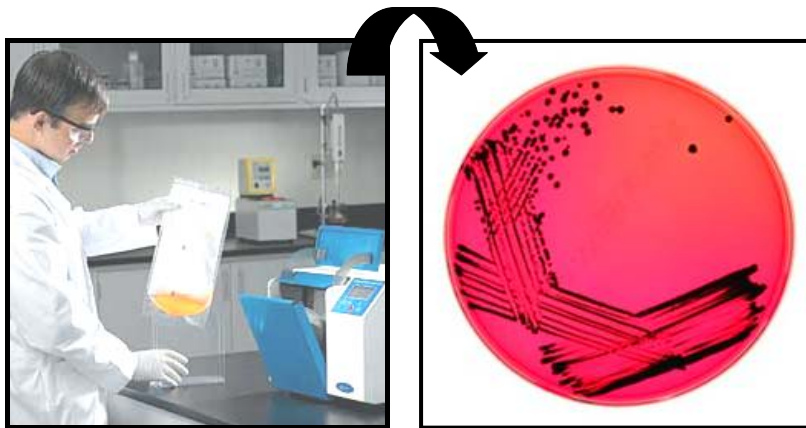
Inoculating food samples with known levels of control strains of pathogens, such as *Salmonella* Nottingham, then testing in accordance with routine procedures, allows you to internally assess your quality system. Most laboratories repeat this procedure on a daily, weekly or monthly basis depending on what is most appropriate for their laboratory.

However, spiking food samples with known levels of control strains also provides a simple way of assessing and validating current in-house methods, including ISO methods, and any alternative methods that you may want to introduce into your laboratory.

Spiked samples are an ideal way of assessing training in your laboratory. They can help you to determine whether individual members of staff can undertake correctly all steps of a procedure from the pre-enrichment stage through to the identity and reporting of the final isolate, using food products that are tested routinely in your laboratory.

### Preparing spiked samples using HPA certified reference materials (CRMs) is a simple two step procedure:

1. Invert the CRM container so the CRM LENTICULE disc drops directly into the stomacher bag containing the food sample and the liquid medium and leave for approx. 10 min (ambient) to allow the CRM to dissolve
2. Stomach the sample and process using your routine procedure



- The Health Protection Agency is a UKAS-accredited producer of CRMs which means you do not have to validate the strains
- The process is far simpler and quicker than preparing and calibrating dilutions of control strains from beads, saving time and reducing scope for error
- HPA CRMs are specially designed to help you demonstrate to your clients that the methods used in your laboratory are fit for purpose and provide accurate reliable results

Packs of CRMs are available from FEPTU, Centre for Infections, 61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ, United Kingdom

For information on other uses for HPA CRMs in food and water microbiology laboratories, or for a copy of the full HPA CRM product list contact: [rm@hpa.org.uk](mailto:rm@hpa.org.uk)