

The final date for return of results is indicated on the accompanying request/report form

Contact details:

The Organisers - FEPTU
Centre for Infections,
61 Colindale Avenue,
London, NW9 5EQ, UK.
Fax: +44 (0) 20 8200 8264
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8327 7119
e-mail: foodeqa@hpa.org.uk
www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/staphylococcus

Results may be returned by fax, mail or e-mail



Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin Scheme - Instruction Sheet

Each distribution consists of **two** evacuated glass vials containing mixtures of freeze-dried micro-organisms. The vial contents require reconstitution prior to examination.

Refer also to the Safety Data Sheet: www.hpa.org.uk/eqa/staphylococcus

Storage:

Store the samples in the dark at room temperature or at **2 - 8°C** on receipt.

Safety Recommendation:

The samples contain micro-organisms of ACDP Hazard Groups 1 and 2. Your laboratory must undertake a risk assessment before handling these samples with particular consideration to the conditions and procedures for opening evacuated vials to prevent the risk of aerosol.

Opening Vials:

Remove the plastic tear-off seal by positioning the vial with the arrow on the plastic flip-top pointing away from you, flip the top up then carefully but deliberately pull downwards and to the right (or the left if you are left handed) until the seal separates; then still holding onto the plastic top, gently remove altogether and discard into a sharps container.

Reconstitution:

Reconstitute the samples in **100 ml** nutrient broth (**pre-warmed** to 30 ± 2 °C) as follows:

- Aseptically remove the rubber stopper from the vial of the freeze-dried sample.
- Transfer approximately 1 ml of the **100 ml** warmed nutrient broth to the vial and allow to stand for 2 - 5 minutes.
- Transfer the vial contents back to the remaining nutrient broth.
- Rinse the vial a further 3 - 4 times with the **100 ml** nutrient broth sample.
- Shake the reconstituted samples before examination.

Examination:

- Incubate the entire reconstituted sample for 22 ± 2 h at 37°C then test the broth for *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxins in accordance with your routine procedures.
- **After incubation, each reconstituted sample is equivalent to a 100 g food sample.**

Reporting:

- Record your results on the request/report form provided with the samples.
- Provide information about your testing method because this will help with the assessment of your results.

Return of Results:

- Return results to the organisers before the deadline shown on the request/report form.
- Results returned after that date will **not** be assessed.