



**US Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Pesticide Programs**

**Office of Pesticide Programs
Microbiology Laboratory
Environmental Science Center, Ft. Meade, MD**

**Standard Operating Procedure for
Neutralization Confirmation Assay for Disinfectant
Products Tested against Mycobacterium bovis (BCG)**

SOP Number: MB-11-05

Date Revised: 06-20-16

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Title	Neutralization Confirmation Assay for Disinfectant Products Tested against <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> (BCG)
Scope	Describes the methodology for determining the effectiveness of a neutralizer used when testing the tuberculocidal activity of disinfectants against <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> (BCG) on hard surfaces using liquid, sprays, or towelettes.
Application	For official product testing, a study protocol is developed which identifies the specific test conditions for a product sample such as contact time, dilutions, neutralizers, etc.

	Approval	Date
SOP Developer:	_____	
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SOP Reviewer	_____	
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Quality Assurance Unit	_____	
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
1. DEFINITIONS	3
2. HEALTH AND SAFETY	3
3. PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING	3
4. INSTRUMENT CALIBRATION	3
5. SAMPLE HANDLING AND STORAGE	3
6. QUALITY CONTROL	3
7. INTERFERENCES	3
8. NON-CONFORMING DATA	3
9. DATA MANAGEMENT	3
10. CAUTIONS	3
11. SPECIAL APPARATUS AND MATERIALS	4
12. PROCEDURE AND ANALYSIS	4
13. DATA ANALYSIS/CALCULATIONS	9
14. FORMS AND DATA SHEETS	9
15. REFERENCES	9

1. Definitions	<p>Additional abbreviations/definitions are provided in the text.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Exposed” Neutralizer: Neutralizer solution which has been used to inactivate the product. 2. “Unexposed” Neutralizer: Neutralizer solution which has not been used to inactivate the product.
2. Health and Safety	<p>Follow procedures specified in SOP MB-01, Laboratory Biosafety. The Study Director and/or lead analyst should consult the Safety Data Sheet for specific hazards associated with products.</p>
3. Personnel Qualifications and Training	<p>Refer to SOP ADM-04, OPP Microbiology Laboratory Training.</p>
4. Instrument Calibration	<p>Refer to SOPs EQ-01 (pH meters), EQ-02 (thermometers), EQ-03 (weigh balances), EQ-04 (spectrophotometers) and EQ-05 (timers) for details on method and frequency of calibration.</p>
5. Sample Handling and Storage	<p>Refer to SOP MB-22, Disinfectant Sample Preparation, and SOP COC-01, Chain of Custody Procedures.</p>
6. Quality Control	<p>Appropriate quality control measures are integrated into each SOP. For quality control purposes, the required information is documented on the appropriate forms (see section 14).</p>
7. Interferences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An interaction between a product’s active ingredient(s) and the neutralizer can interfere with the reading of results. 2. Presence of contamination will interfere with the interpretation of results and may necessitate repeat analysis.
8. Non-conforming Data	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of non-conforming data will be consistent with SOP ADM-07, Non-Conformance Reports. 2. Media performance (Subculture Media Control) must be acceptable in order to interpret the neutralization results.
9. Data Management	<p>Data will be archived consistent with SOP ADM-03, Records and Archives.</p>
10. Cautions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The lack of complete neutralization of the disinfectant or bacteriostatic activity of the neutralizer itself may be masked when a high level of <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG) is added to the subculture tubes. 2. There are time sensitive steps in this procedure including the use-period of the test chemical. 3. Verify the volume of dilution blanks, neutralizer tubes, and subculture

	<p>tubes in advance and adjust accordingly.</p> <p>4. Interactions between the media and neutralizer may result in growth in some media and not others; if this occurs, a more suitable neutralizer should be selected.</p>
11. Special Apparatus and Materials	<p>1. Refer to section 11 (Special Apparatus and Materials) of MB-07, MB-23, and MB-24 depending on the type of carrier used in the neutralization assay.</p>
12. Procedure and Analysis	<p>1. For an overview of the setup of this procedure, see Tables 1 and 2.</p> <p>2. Sterile carriers are used for this assay. Sterile growth medium with or without soil load is applied to the test carriers (via carrier submersion or application using a pipette) in advance of testing to simulate inoculation.</p> <p>3. Perform the neutralization assay in advance of or concurrently with product testing to verify that the prescribed neutralizer is suitable for the efficacy evaluation. It is preferable to use the same preparation of media for conducting the neutralization and efficacy assays.</p> <p>4. The general procedure for conducting the assay is the same for liquid, spray, and towelette products. Follow the test parameters specified for product testing (e.g., H₂O hardness, use dilution, soil load, neutralizer, contact time, temperature) for the neutralization confirmation assay.</p> <p>5. The Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Processing Sheet (see section 14) must be used for tracking testing activities.</p>
12.1 Preparation of Inoculum	<p>a. Prepare standardized inoculum per section 12.1 or 12.2 of MB-07, MB-23, or MB-24.</p>
12.2 Preparation of inoculum dilutions and enumeration	<p>a. Prepare serial ten-fold dilutions of the standardized inoculum in 9 mL of Modified Proskauer Beck medium (MPB) or phosphate buffered dilution water (PBDW). Use four dilutions (e.g., 10⁻², 10⁻³, 10⁻⁴, and 10⁻⁵) to inoculate the subculture media described in sections 12.5-12.7. The target number of cells is 5-100 CFU/mL; this level should be seen in one of the two highest dilutions.</p> <p>b. To estimate CFU/mL, plate 0.1 mL aliquots of each of the four dilutions in duplicate on M7H11 agar using spread plating. Briefly mix each serial dilution tube prior to plating. Spread inoculum evenly over the surface of the agar. Plates must be dry prior to incubation.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Record the dilution and plating information on the Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Inoculum Enumeration Form (see section 14). d. Incubate plates (inverted) concurrently with the neutralization test subculture tubes at 36±1°C for 17-21 days. An evaluation prior to 17 days may be made for plates with high colony counts. e. Count colonies. Plates that have colony counts over 300 CFU will be reported as TNTC. Record the counts on the Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Inoculum Enumeration Form (see section 14).
<p>12.3 Product Sample Preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare the product according to the test parameters; follow guidelines for disinfectant sample preparation provided in SOP MB-22, Disinfectant Sample Preparation, and SOP COC-01, Chain of Custody Procedures.
<p>12.4 Carrier Preparation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use carrier type required for the specific test. b. Application of sterile medium with or without soil load. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. For CTB: Add 10 sterile carriers to a tube containing 15-20 mL of either MPB or Middlebrook 7H9 broth with 0.1% (v/v) polysorbate 80 (M7H9/P80); use the same sterile medium used to grow the test culture. Add soil load to the sterile medium as necessary per the test parameters. ii. For GSPT: Using a calibrated positive displacement pipette, transfer 10 µL of either MPB or M7H9/P80 onto approximately 1 square inch of the sterile test carrier in the Petri dish; use the same sterile medium used to grow the test culture. Add soil load to the sterile medium as necessary per the test parameters. Immediately spread the medium uniformly over the majority of the carrier surface using a sterile loop. Cover dish immediately. Prepare at least 10 carriers. iii. For DTT: Using a calibrated positive displacement pipette, transfer 10 µL of either MPB or M7H9/P80 onto the sterile test carrier in the Petri dish at one end of the slide; use the same sterile medium used to grow the test culture. Add soil load to the sterile medium as necessary per the test parameters. Immediately spread the medium uniformly over one third of the carrier surface using a

	<p>sterile loop. Cover dish immediately. Prepare at least 10 carriers.</p> <p>c. Dry carriers in incubator at 36±1°C for 30±2 min.</p>
<p>12.5 Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer Treatment</p>	<p>a. Requires four dried carriers (with medium added). Each carrier will be associated with one dilution of inoculum.</p> <p>b. Apply the product to the carriers according to the efficacy method SOP and the specific instructions provided in the test parameters.</p> <p>Record the carrier transfer information on the Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Time Recording Sheet for Carrier Transfers (see section 14).</p> <p>c. After the last carrier of a set (4 total carriers) has been treated with the disinfectant and the contact time is complete, aseptically transfer carriers in order in a timed fashion into tubes containing the specified neutralizer, in the same manner as product efficacy testing. Drain excess liquid from the carrier prior to the transfer.</p> <p><i>Note: For spray and towelette products, use 20 mL neutralizer per 38 × 100 mm tube. For liquid products use 10 mL neutralizer per 25 × 100 mm tube.</i></p> <p>d. Shake the tube containing the carrier in neutralizer thoroughly and transfer the carrier to the primary subculture medium tube containing 20 mL MPB broth within 5-10 minutes.</p> <p>e. For liquid products, sequentially transfer 2 mL aliquots from each of the four neutralizer tubes into one tube of each of the 2 additional subculture media (M7H9, K or TB) specified by the test parameters. Do not add neutralizer to the MPB tube. This portion of the assay is not timed, but the aliquots should be transferred to the subculture media within approximately 30 minutes. Inoculate one tube of each medium with one of the four inoculum dilutions prepared in section 12.2.</p> <p>f. For spray and towelette products, sequentially transfer 2 mL aliquots from each of the four neutralizer tubes into two tubes of each of the 2 additional subculture media (M7H9, K or TB) specified by the test parameters. Inoculate two tubes of each medium with one of the four inoculum dilutions prepared in section 12.2.</p>
<p>12.6 Subculture Media + Unexposed</p>	<p>a. Requires four dried carriers (with medium added). Each carrier will be associated with one dilution of inoculum.</p>

<p>Neutralizer Treatment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Expose four of the carriers to neutralizer, one carrier per tube of neutralizer (this portion of the assay is not timed). c. Shake the tube containing the carrier in neutralizer thoroughly and transfer the carrier to the primary subculture medium tube containing 20 mL MPB broth within 5-10 minutes. d. For liquid products, sequentially transfer 2 mL aliquots from each of the four neutralizer tubes into one tube of each of the 2 additional subculture media (M7H9, K or TB) specified by the test parameters. Do not add neutralizer to the MPB tube. This portion of the assay is not timed, but the aliquots should be transferred to the subculture media within approximately 30 minutes. Inoculate one tube of each subculture media with one of the four inoculum dilutions prepared in section 12.2. e. For spray and towelette products, transfer 2 mL aliquots from each of the four neutralizer tubes into two tubes of each of the 2 additional subculture media (M7H9, K or TB). Inoculate two tubes of each subculture media with one of the four inoculum dilutions prepared in section 12.2.
<p>12.7 Subculture Media Controls</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Subculture Media Control. This control contains four tubes of each preparation of subculture media used in the neutralization assay. Do not add neutralizer to the media. Inoculate each tube of each medium with one of the four inoculum dilutions prepared in section 12.2. b. Negative (uninoculated) Media Control. Incubate one uninoculated tube of each medium along with the assay.
<p>12.8 Inoculating Subculture Media</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within 30 minutes after all carriers and neutralizer aliquots have been transferred, inoculate the Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer treatment, the Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer treatment, and the Subculture Media Control with 0.1 mL of the diluted <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG) inoculum (dilution tubes 10^{-2} through 10^{-5}), beginning with the least concentrated dilution.
<p>12.9 Incubation and Presumptive Confirmation Testing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incubate tubes at $36\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ for up to 60 days; tubes may be monitored for growth prior to 60 days. b. Record results between 45-60 days as positive (+) or negative (0) as indicated by the presence or absence of growth. c. For each medium in the Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer treatment, the Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer treatment, and the Subculture Media Control,

	<p>select the tube with growth from the highest dilution of inoculum (i.e., fewest CFU/mL delivered) and perform acid fast staining on a sample of the growth. Acid fast rods are typical for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG).</p> <p>d. If necessary, conduct additional confirmation to include isolation streaks on selective media such as M7H11 agar plates. Following the 17-21 day incubation period, evaluate the colony morphology of the organism on M7H11 agar. On M7H11 agar, <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG) typically appears as colorless to buff-colored, raised, rough growth.</p> <p>e. Record confirmation results on the Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Test Microbe Confirmation Sheet (see section 14).</p>
<p>12.10 Interpretation of Results</p>	<p>a. <u>Plate count data.</u> One of the four dilutions plated should provide counts within the target range, 5-100 CFU/mL.</p> <p>b. Growth in the Subculture Media Control (media performance) verifies the presence of the test microbe, performance of the media, and provides a basis for comparing growth in the subculture tubes to growth in the Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer treatment and the Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer treatment.</p> <p>c. The occurrence of growth in the Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer treatment as compared to the Subculture Media Control tubes is used to assess any bacteriostatic effects attributable to possible interactions between the neutralizer and subculture media.</p> <p>d. The occurrence of growth in the Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer treatment tubes as compared to the Subculture Media Control tubes is used to determine the effectiveness of the neutralizer to inactivate the disinfectant when used under simulated test conditions.</p> <p>e. Verification of neutralizer effectiveness.</p> <p>i. Growth in tubes that were inoculated with dilutions yielding plate counts ranging from TNTC to 5-100 CFU; growth in at least one tube receiving a desired target of 5-100 CFU is required.</p> <p>ii. Growth in the Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer treatment and Subculture Media + Exposed</p>

	<p>Neutralizer treatment should be comparable to the Subculture Media Control.</p> <p>f. Lack of verification of neutralizer effectiveness.</p> <p>i. Growth in tubes that were inoculated with dilutions yielding plate counts of TNTC and no growth in tubes that were inoculated with dilutions yielding plate counts with a desired target of 5-100 CFU.</p> <p>ii. No growth in any tubes.</p> <p>g. For the data to be deemed valid, each Negative (uninoculated) Media Control tube must show no microbial growth.</p>
<p>13. Data Analysis/ Calculations</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>14. Forms and Data Sheets</p>	<p>Test Sheets. Test sheets are stored separately from the SOP under the following file names:</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Time Recording Sheet for Carrier Transfers MB-11-05_F1.docx</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Information Sheet MB-11-05_F2.docx</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Results Sheet – Liquid Products MB-11-05_F3.docx</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Results Sheet – Spray/Towelette Products MB-11-05_F4.docx</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Inoculum Enumeration Form MB-11-05_F5.docx</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Test Microbe Confirmation Sheet MB-11-05_F6.docx</p> <p>Neutralization Confirmation Assay for <i>M. bovis</i> (BCG): Processing Sheet MB-11-05_F7.docx</p>
<p>15. References</p>	<p>Official Methods of Analysis. Revised 2013. 18th Ed., AOAC INTERNATIONAL, Gaithersburg, MD, (Method 965.12 In vitro Test for Determining Tuberculocidal Activity).</p>

Table 1: Components of the Neutralization Confirmation Assay for Liquid Products

Treatment/Control	<i>M. bovis</i> (BCG) Inoculum Dilution (0.1 mL added per tube)	Media (○ = Tube of Media)		
		MPB (20 mL)	M7H9 (20 mL)	K or TB (20 mL)
Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer	10 ⁻²	○/Carrier	○	○
	10 ⁻³	○/Carrier	○	○
	10 ⁻⁴	○/Carrier	○	○
	10 ⁻⁵	○/Carrier	○	○
Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer	10 ⁻²	○/Carrier	○	○
	10 ⁻³	○/Carrier	○	○
	10 ⁻⁴	○/Carrier	○	○
	10 ⁻⁵	○/Carrier	○	○
Subculture Media Control	10 ⁻²	○	○	○
	10 ⁻³	○	○	○
	10 ⁻⁴	○	○	○
	10 ⁻⁵	○	○	○
Negative Uninoculated Control	Not inoculated	○	○	○

Table 2: Components of the Neutralization Confirmation Assay for Spray/Towelette Products

Treatment/Control	<i>M. bovis</i> (BCG) Inoculum Dilution (0.1 mL added per tube)	Media (○ = Tube of Media)		
		MPB (20 mL)	M7H9 (20 mL)	K or TB (20 mL)
Subculture Media + Exposed Neutralizer	10 ⁻²	○/Carrier	○○	○○
	10 ⁻³	○/Carrier	○○	○○
	10 ⁻⁴	○/Carrier	○○	○○
	10 ⁻⁵	○/Carrier	○○	○○
Subculture Media + Unexposed Neutralizer	10 ⁻²	○/Carrier	○○	○○
	10 ⁻³	○/Carrier	○○	○○
	10 ⁻⁴	○/Carrier	○○	○○
	10 ⁻⁵	○/Carrier	○○	○○
Subculture Media Control	10 ⁻²	○	○	○
	10 ⁻³	○	○	○
	10 ⁻⁴	○	○	○
	10 ⁻⁵	○	○	○
Negative Uninoculated Control	Not inoculated	○	○	○