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CULTI-LOOPS
QC Organisms

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USE
Culti-Loops™ are ready to use, disposable bacteriological loops containing stabilised viable microorganisms. Culti-Loops are recommended for use in the performance testing of culture media, stains, diagnostic kits and reagents, for the maintenance of stock cultures and in the evaluation of bacteriological procedures.

DESCRIPTION
Each loop is individually packaged in a foil pouch and each pack contains five loops.

PRECAUTIONS
Culti-Loops contain viable micro-organisms and should be used only by individuals with bacteriological training. Refer to national Guidelines for Microbiological Containment Category information. After use, all loops and packaging should be placed into an appropriate container and sterilised by autoclaving before their final disposal. Do not place the loops into bunsen burners.

STORAGE
Store Culti-Loops at 2–8°C (≤-20°C for *Campylobacter* spp.). Remove only the quantity of loops required for immediate use. Under these conditions, Culti-Loops will retain their viability until the date shown on the foil pouch.

TO OPEN
Cut open the end of the foil packet as indicated on the label.

EVIDENCE OF DETERIORATION
Each loop should contain an intact dried film. Do not use the loop if there is any evidence of hydration.

PROCEDURE
The film in each loop is made from a gelatine formulation and then dried by special processing. To rehydrate the film, the loops must come into contact with both warmth and moisture.

Direct inoculation of Culti-Loops onto selective media may result in slow or absent growth. It is therefore recommended that where this is observed, inoculation onto non-selective media (such as blood agar) should precede sub-culture onto selective media.

The following two methods may be used for inoculation. Utilise the appropriate method for the selected microorganism.

DIRECT STREAK METHOD
This procedure is recommended for all non-fastidious microorganisms.
1. Warm the appropriate plate medium to 35–37°C.
2. Remove the sheath from the loop.
3. Stab the loop into the medium or lay it flat on the warm, moist surface. Hold it in this manner for 10–15 seconds to allow for absorption of moisture.
4. Streak the plate in the usual manner. As many as five plates may be streaked with the same loop.
5. Incubate the plates in an appropriate atmosphere and temperature for the optimal growth of the organism.

INDIRECT (BROTH) METHOD
This procedure is recommended for all fastidious micro-organisms.
1. Remove the sheath from the loop.
2. Cut off the loop shaft from the handle using sterilised scissors into a tube containing 0.5 to1.0mL of liquid medium. Use: a) Tryptone Soya Broth or freshly prepared Thioglycollate USP for bacterial specimens. b) Sterile saline for mycology specimens.
3. Place tube in a 35–37°C incubator just long enough for the film to dissolve completely out of the loop. Shake the tube gently to suspend the organism.
4. Using a Pasteur pipette, inoculate the appropriate media with several drops and streak in the usual manner.
5. Incubate the plates in an appropriate atmosphere and temperature for the optimal growth of the organism.

Most organisms grow in 24–48 hours under the proper conditions. However, some exhibit a considerable lag phase and should be incubated for an additional 24 hours.

NOTE
The organisms used in Culti-Loops are derived from original ATCC®† stock cultures* according to the number shown.

REFERENCE
Prier J., Bartola E. and Friedman H. (1973) Quality Control in Microbiology. University Park Press, Baltimore

Symbol legend
- REF Catalogue Number
- Consult Instructions For Use (IFU)
- Temperature Limitation (Storage Temp.)
- LOT Batch Code (Lot Number)
- Use By (Expiration Date)
- LAB For Laboratory Use
- Biological risk
- Manufacturer

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