

United States Department of Agriculture  
Center for Veterinary Biologics

Testing Protocol

SAM 620

Supplemental Assay Method for Potency Testing Enterotoxigenic (K99 Pilus)  
*Escherichia coli* Bacterins

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Supplemental Assay Method for Potency Testing Enterotoxigenic (K99 Pilus) *Escherichia coli* Bacterins

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**Supplemental Assay Method for Potency Testing Enterotoxigenic (K99 Pilus) *Escherichia coli* Bacterins**

**1. Introduction**

This Supplemental Assay Method (SAM) for potency testing inactivated *Escherichia coli* bacterins employs a capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for K99 pilus antigen. Relative potency is determined by comparing the K99 antigen content of the test bacterin to the K99 antigen content present in an unexpired, suitably qualified reference bacterin.

**2. Materials**

**2.1 Equipment/instrumentation**

Equivalent equipment or instrumentation may be substituted for any brand name listed below.

- 2.1.1 Micropipettors, to cover the range of 5- $\mu$ L to 1000- $\mu$ L
- 2.1.2 8- or 12-channel micropipettor, to cover the range of 50- $\mu$ L to 200- $\mu$ L
- 2.1.3 Orbital shaker
- 2.1.4 Automatic microplate washer (optional)
- 2.1.5 Microplate reader with dual wavelengths (490 nm and 650 nm)
- 2.1.6 Balance, to measure 150 mg to 15 g
- 2.1.7 Relative Potency Calculation Software

**2.2 Reagents/supplies**

Equivalent reagents or supplies may be substituted for any brand name listed below.

- 2.2.1 96-well flat-bottom high-binding microtitration plates (Immulon 2; Dynatech Laboratories, Inc.)
- 2.2.2 96-well non-binding microtitration plates suitable for making serial dilutions (transfer plates)
- 2.2.3 Plate sealers
- 2.2.4 Carbonate coating buffer
- 2.2.5 Phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), pH 7.2

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- 2.2.6 Phosphate-buffered saline with 0.05% Tween 20 (PBS-Tween)
- 2.2.7 Phosphate elution buffer (optional)
- 2.2.8 Sodium citrate, dihydrate for antigen elution (optional)
- 2.2.9 Sodium deoxycholate (desoxycholate) elution buffer (optional)
- 2.2.10 Citrate buffer (substrate diluent)
- 2.2.11 *o*-Phenylenediamine dihydrochloride (OPD)
- 2.2.12 Hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), 30%, stabilized
- 2.2.13 2.5M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> stop solution
- 2.2.14 K99-specific antigen-capture monoclonal antibody, available from the Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB). Refer to current reagent data sheet for details.
- 2.2.15 Horseradish peroxidase-conjugated K99-specific monoclonal antibody, available from the CVB. Refer to current reagent data sheet for details.
- 2.2.16 Test bacterin(s) containing K99 antigen
- 2.2.17 Reference bacterin containing K99 antigen (must be approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and within dating)

**3. Preparation for the Test**

**3.1 Personnel qualifications/training**

Technical personnel need a working knowledge of the use of general laboratory chemicals, equipment, and glassware; automated microplate washer and microplate reader; and data analysis software. They need specific training in the performance of this assay.

**3.2 Preparation of equipment/instrumentation**

Operate and maintain all equipment according to manufacturers' recommendations and applicable standard operating procedures.

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**3.3 Preparation of reagents/control procedures**

**3.3.1 Carbonate coating buffer – National Centers for Animal Health (NCAH) Media #20034**

Na <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub>	0.159 g
NaHCO <sub>3</sub>	0.293 g
Deionized water	q.s. to 100 mL

Adjust pH to 9.6 ± 0.1. Store at 2°- 7°C for no longer than 1 week.

**3.3.2 Phosphate buffered saline – NCAH Media #10559**

NaCl	8.00 g
KCl	0.20 g
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub>	1.15 g
KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>	0.20 g
Deionized water	q.s. to 1 L

Adjust pH to 7.2 ± 0.1. Store at 20°- 25°C for no longer than 6 months. If long term storage (up to 1 year) is desired, autoclave for 20-30 minutes at ≥ 121°C to sterilize following manufacturer's recommendations.

**3.3.3 Phosphate buffered saline with 0.05% Tween 20 (PBS-Tween) – NCAH Media #30179**

PBS (see <b>Section 3.3.2</b> )	1000 mL
Tween 20	0.5 mL

Store at 20°- 25°C for no longer than 1 year.

**3.3.4 Phosphate buffer for antigen elution**

KH <sub>2</sub> PO <sub>4</sub> (Mallinckrodt, Inc. 7100 or equivalent)	8.2 g
Deionized water	94 mL

Adjust pH to 9.3 ± 0.1, or other appropriate pH as optimized for use with a specific bacterin. Store at 20°- 25°C for no longer than 1 month.

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**3.3.5 Sodium deoxycholate (desoxycholate) elution buffer**

Sodium desoxycholate (Difco Laboratories 0248-13-7 or equivalent)	0.50 g
PBS (see <b>Section 3.3.2</b> )	100 mL

Store at 2°- 7°C for no longer than 1 month. Warm to 20°- 25°C prior to use (the buffer gels at 2°- 7°C).

**3.3.6 Citrate buffer (pH 5.0)--NCAH Media #20033**

Citric acid monohydrate (reagent grade)	5.26 g
Na <sub>2</sub> HPO <sub>4</sub> •7H <sub>2</sub> O	6.74 g
Deionized water	q.s. to 1 L

Adjust pH to 5.0 ± 0.1 and filter sterilize. Store at 2°- 7°C no longer than 2 months. Use to prepare substrate solution (see **Section 3.3.7**).

**3.3.7 Substrate solution (quantities for 1 plate)**

Citrate buffer	12 mL
<i>o</i> -Phenylenediamine dihydrochloride (OPD) (Sigma P8787 or equivalent)	4 mg
30% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> (stabilized)	5 µL

Prepare within 15 minutes of use.

**Caution: *o*-Phenylenediamine dihydrochloride is a carcinogen. See appropriate MSDS for precautions when handling this product.**

**3.3.8 Stop solution (2.5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) – NCAH Media #30171**

Concentrated (98%) H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	13.6 mL
Deionized water	86.4 mL

Add acid to water. Solution may be stored no longer than 1 year at 20°- 25°C.

**3.3.9 Monoclonal antibodies (MAb)**

1. K99 antigen-capture monoclonal antibody (2BD4E4). Obtain MAb from the CVB. Refer to the current reagent data sheet for details on use and storage.

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2. Horseradish peroxidase-labeled K99 antigen-indicator MAb (2BD4E4). Refer to the current reagent data sheet for details on use and storage.

**3.3.10 Bacterins containing K99 antigen**

1. Reference bacterin
2. Test bacterin(s)

**CRITICAL CONTROL POINT:** Ideally, the reference and test bacterins should be produced by the same Outline of Production. If reference formulation differs from that of the test bacterin, the assay must be validated to show that this does not adversely affect assay performance or accuracy of results.

**3.4 Preparation of the sample**

Antigen-elution treatments: Many bacterins do not require antigen-elution treatment prior to being serially diluted in twofold increments with PBS-Tween. Test representative batches of each adjuvanted product with and without each antigen-elution treatment to determine if the treatment specifically enhances the K99 antigen capture. If no enhancement of the K99 antigen capture can be demonstrated, test the bacterins without antigen-elution treatment. Treat the reference bacterin and the test bacterins by the same elution procedure. Alternate elution procedures, other than those described here, may be more appropriate for some bacterins.

**1. Aluminum hydroxide-adjuvanted bacterins**

Bacterins adjuvanted with aluminum hydroxide may be treated with either sodium citrate or phosphate buffer prior to making serial twofold dilutions in PBS-Tween.

- Sodium citrate elution

Mix 1.0 g sodium citrate, dihydrate with 10.0 mL of bacterin (10% w/v). Place on an orbital shaker (100-120 rpm) overnight at 35°- 37°C. Consider treated bacterin to be undiluted.

- Phosphate buffer elution

Mix 1.0 mL of phosphate elution buffer with 1.0 mL of bacterin. Place on an orbital shaker (100-120 rpm) overnight at 35°- 37°C. Consider treated bacterin to be diluted 1:2.

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**2. Oil-adjuvanted bacterins**

Mix 1.0 mL of sodium desoxycholate elution buffer with 1.0 mL of bacterin. Place on an orbital shaker (100-120 rpm) overnight at 35°- 37°C. Consider treated bacterin to be diluted 1:2.

**4. Performance of the Test**

**4.1** Dilute the K99 antigen-capture MAb in cold carbonate coating buffer (refer to the current reagent data sheet for dilution) and place 100 µL in each well of 96-well flat-bottom, high-binding microtitration plates. Seal coated plates with plate sealers. Incubate coated plates overnight at 2°- 7°C. Coated plates stored at 2°- 7°C may be used for up to 5 days.

**4.2** Make twofold dilutions of reference and test bacterins using PBS-Tween as a diluent. Add 125 µL PBS-Tween to each well of a clean microtitration plate (transfer plate). Place 125 µL of bacterin in the first well of each row. Test each bacterin in at least 2 replicate rows. Test the reference bacterin and the test bacterin on the same plate. Use a multichannel micropipettor to make serial twofold dilutions of each bacterin across the plate (125 µL transfer volume). Reserve at least 2 unused wells on each plate to serve as blanks. The use of at least 7 serial twofold dilutions per bacterin is recommended. Ideally, the selected bacterin dilutions should delineate the sigmoid curve from antigen saturation to antigen extinction for each bacterin. The dilutions used for the reference bacterin and the test bacterin may differ.

**4.3** Wash the coated ELISA plates 3 times with PBS-Tween. An automatic plate washer (200-300 µL/well, 10- to 40-second soak cycle) may be used, or the plates may be washed by hand. Tap the plates upside down on absorbent material to remove residual fluid.

**4.4** Use a multichannel micropipettor to transfer the bacterin dilutions from the transfer plates to the coated ELISA plates (100 µL/well). Seal the ELISA plates and incubate them on an orbital shaker (100-120 rpm) for 30 minutes (± 5 minutes) at 20°-25°C.

**4.5** Wash the ELISA plates 3 times with PBS-Tween as in **Section 4.3**.

**4.6** Dilute the horseradish peroxidase-labeled K99 antigen-indicator MAb in PBS-Tween to the current use dilution (refer to the current reagent data sheet for dilution), and add 100 µL to each well. Seal the ELISA plates and incubate on an orbital shaker (100-120 rpm) for 30 minutes (± 5 minutes) at 20°- 25°C.

**4.7** Wash the ELISA plates 3 times with PBS-Tween as in **Section 4.3**.



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**4.8** Add 100  $\mu$ L freshly prepared substrate solution to each well. Incubate the ELISA plates on an orbital shaker (100-120 rpm) for 10 minutes ( $\pm$  5 minutes) or until sufficient color develops at 20°- 25°C.

**4.9** Stop the substrate color development by adding 100  $\mu$ L stop solution to each well.

**Note: The OPD substrate undergoes a color shift from yellow to orange when stop solution is added.**

**4.10** Read the ELISA plates using an ELISA reader with dual wavelengths (490 nm test, 650 nm reference). Calculate the mean absorbance for the blank wells. Subtract the mean absorbance of the blank wells from each bacterin test well absorbance value prior to data analysis.

## **5. Interpretation of the Test Results**

### **5.1 Relative potency calculation method**

**5.1.1** Calculate the relative potency of the test bacterin as compared to that of the reference bacterin as described by standard operating procedures, **CVBSOP0102**, *Using Software to Estimate Relative Potency*.

**5.1.2** Do not use bacterin dilutions with mean absorbance values less than ( $<$ ) 0.050 (after subtraction of the mean absorbance of the blank) in the relative potency calculations.

**5.1.3** Do not use regression lines with slopes less than ( $<$ ) 0.10 in minimum absolute value for relative potency calculations.

### **5.2 Requirements for a valid assay**

**5.2.1** Lines are determined by first-order linear regression of at least 3 contiguous points and must have a correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) of greater than or equal to ( $\geq$ ) 0.95.

**5.2.2** The reference regression line and the test bacterin regression line must show parallelism (slope ratio 0.80 to 1.25).

### **5.3 Requirements for a satisfactory test bacterin**

To be considered satisfactory, a test bacterin must have an RP value of  $\geq$  1.0. Test bacterins with RP values  $<$  1.0 on a valid assay may be retested by conducting 2 independent replicate tests in a manner identical to the initial test. If both retests are valid and the reported RP values of both of the retests are  $\geq$  1.0, the test bacterin is satisfactory.

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## 6. Report of Test Results

Report results of the test(s) as described by standard operating procedures.

## 7. Summary of Revisions

### Version .06

- Updated minimum slope expectations for consistency with the PEL Reviewer's Manual Work Instruction 4.6.2.

### Version .05

- The Bacteriology Section Leader has been updated.
- Clarified media expiration dates.
- Removed references to Relative Potency Calculation Software (RelPot) and associated SAM 318.

### Version .04

- The Contact information has been updated.
- All references to National Veterinary Services Laboratories media have been changed to National Centers for Animal Health media.

### Version .03

- Clarification that sodium citrate, dihydrate should be used (rather than sodium citrate monobasic, anhydrous) has been added throughout the document.

### Version .02

This document was revised to clarify practices currently in use at the Center for Veterinary Biologics and to provide additional detail. While no significant changes were made that impact the outcome of the test, the following changes were made to the document:

- **2.2.1** The plates used have been further defined as high-binding.
- **2.2.2** The plates used have been further defined as non-binding.
- **2.2.9** Alternative names for the chemical have been included.

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- **2.2.13** The stop solution has been further defined.
- **2.2.17** The parameters of the reference have been further defined as within dating.
- **3.3.8** The stop solution recipe has been updated.
- **3.4.12** The incubation temperature has been changed.
- **4.8** Additional information on stopping the reaction has been added.
- References to internal documents have been replaced with summary information.
- A statement referring the user to the current reagent data sheet has been added throughout the document.
- The contact has been changed to Janet Wilson.