***Aquatic Manual* disease chapters Table 4.1. *OIE recommended diagnostic methods and their level of validation for surveillance of apparently healthy animals and investigation of clinically affected animals:* current Key for Table 4.1 with suggested edits tracked)**

**4. Diagnostic methods**

The methods currently available for identifying infection that can be used in i) surveillance of apparently healthy ~~populations~~animals, ii) presumptive diagnosis in clinically affected animals and iii) confirmatory diagnostic purposes are listed in Table 4.1. by life stage.

~~The designations used in the Table indicate:~~

**Ratings against purposes of use.** For each recommended assay a qualitative rating against the purpose of use is provided. The ratings are determined based on multiple performance and operational factors relevant to application of an assay for a defined purpose. These factors include appropriate diagnostic performance characteristics, level of assay validation, successful application by diagnostic laboratories, cost, timeliness, and sample throughput. For a specific purpose of use, assays are rated as:

~~Key:~~

+++ = Most suitable methods – desirable performance and operational characteristics.

++ = Suitable method(s) acceptable performance and operational characteristics under most circumstances.

+ = Less suitable methods – performance or operational characteristics may significantly limit application.

Shaded boxes = Not appropriate for this purpose.

~~The selection of a test for a given purpose depends on the analytical and diagnostic sensitivities and specificities repeatability and reproducibility. OIE Reference Laboratories welcome feedback on diagnostic performance for assays, in particular PCR methods, for factors affecting assay analytical sensitivity or analytical specificity, such as tissue components inhibiting amplification, presence of nonspecific or uncertain bands, etc., and any assays that are in the +++ category.~~

**Validation stage**. The validation stage corresponds to the assay development and validation pathway in chapter 1.1.2. The validation stage is specific to each purpose of use. Where available, information on the diagnostic performance of recommended assays is provided in Section 6.3.

OIE Reference Laboratories welcome feedback on diagnostic performance of recommended assays, in particular PCR methods. Of particular interest are any factors affecting expected assay sensitivity (e.g. tissue components inhibiting amplification) or expected specificity (e.g. failure to detect particular genotypes). These issues should be communicated to the OIE Reference Laboratories so that advice can be provided to diagnostic laboratories and the standards amended if necessary.

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