Performance Summary

RAPID'Salmonella Method





Introduction

RAPID'Salmonella Agar is a chromogenic medium for the detection of Salmonella spp. after food and environmental samples are enriched in supplemented Buffered Peptone Water (BPW). The RAPID'Salmonella method allows the presumptive identification of motile and nonmotile Salmonella spp., lactose-positive Salmonella spp., and Salmonella Typhi and Paratyphi by detecting C8-esterase activity. Simultaneous screening of β-glucosidase activity permits the differentiation of Salmonella colonies from those of other Enterobacteriaceae. After incubation, Salmonella appear as readily identifiable, typically magenta, colonies, whereas non-Salmonella bacteria grow as blue or colorless colonies. The RAPID'Salmonella method has been rigorously tested and validated by internationally recognized validation agencies (Table 1).

Table 1. Validations for the RAPID'Salmonella method.

Validation	Certificate Number
AOAC	PTM 050701
NF Validation	BRD 07/11-12/05
NordVal	32

Inclusivity/Exclusivity Testing

Inclusivity testing is performed to verify that the method can detect *Salmonella* spp., while exclusivity studies test non-*Salmonella* strains to ensure there is no cross-reactivity. Exclusivity strains were enriched in nonselective broth for 24 hr at 41.5 \pm 1°C and were tested at high levels. A target of 10–100 colony forming units (CFU) of each *Salmonella* inclusivity strain was cultured in supplemented BPW for 16–20 hr at both 37 \pm 1°C and 41.5°C \pm 1° and then diluted to a low level (~10³) before testing. All colonies were confirmed regardless of morphology. Results from the 2018 NF Validation extension are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Results of inclusivity/exclusivity testing.

Strains Tested	Positives Detected	Results
152 Salmonella strains tested	145/156	93% inclusivity
101 non-Salmonella strains tested	0/101*	100% exclusivity

^{*} Confirmation included.

Limit of Detection

Limit of detection (LOD_{50}) is an estimation of the contamination level required to achieve positive detection in 50% of cases. This is measured by inoculating food matrices with *Salmonella* strains and carrying out the validated enrichment and detection protocols (Table 3).

The average LOD_{50} of the RAPID'Salmonella method was determined to be 0.7 (range: 0.6–0.9).

Table 3. LOD₅₀ for the RAPID'Salmonella method.

Matrix/Strain Pair	LOD ₅₀ , CFU/sample size (range)
Potato salad/S. Mbandaka	0.6 (0.3–1.2)
Ground beef/S. Infantis	0.7 (0.4–1.3)
Raw milk/S. Derby	0.5 (0.3–0.9)
Liquid egg product/S. Enteritidis	0.7 (0.4–1.2)
Haddock fillet/S. Saintpaul	0.5 (0.3–0.9)
Dog food/S. Agona	1.1 (0.6–2.0)
Process water/S. Typhimurium	1.0 (0.5–1.8)
Infant formula/S. Anatum	0.8 (0.5–1.4)
Infant formula with probiotics/S. Cerro	0.3 (0.1–0.5)

Method Comparison/Matrix Studies

Matrix testing is critical to demonstrating the performance of a method compared to the reference method with real-world food samples. The RAPID'Salmonella method has been verified with external and internal testing on a wide variety of foods. No significant difference was found between the reference method and alternative method for all matrices tested (Table 4).



Table 4. Matrices tested with the RAPID'Salmonella method.

Category	Matrices
Composite foods	RTE: Mixed tuna with vegetables, cooked vegetable meal
RTE, RTRH, pastries and egg products	RTRH: Frozen peas with bacon, moussaka, shepherd's pie, spaghetti bolognese, beef bourguignon, paella, trout with spices, sole fillet with lemon, cod with creamed spinach, herring with herbs, seasoned beef, stuffing
	Pastries and egg products: Chocolate éclair, pastry, chocolate custard puff pastry, caramel cream puff, egg dessert, mayonnaise, chocolate meringue, confectioner's egg custard powder, egg pasta powder, fresh egg pasta
Meat products Raw and RTC, RTE and RTRH, deli	Raw and RTC: Ground beef, beef trim, beef shank, raw ham, lamb, pork chop, rump steak, pork belly, chicken breast, chicken parts with skin, chicken parts without skin, chicken thigh, chicken drumstick, rooster with skin, mechanically separated meat, duck gizzard, hen, turkey thigh, turkey meat, beef and pork meatball
	RTE and RTRH: Fresh sausage, dried sausage, beef carpaccio, pork, smoked duck, dried duck, chorizo
	Deli: Cooked ham, smoked ham, cooked pork shoulder, duck liver pâté
Dairy products Raw milk and products, heat processed, frozen	Raw milk and products: Raw cow milk, unpasteurized cow milk, raw sheep milk, unpasteurized sheep milk, raw cow milk cheese, unpasteurized cow milk cheese, unpasteurized goat cheese curd, fresh cream
	Heat processed: Milk powder, skim milk powder, whipped cream, pasteurized cheese, pasteurized milk, skim milk
	Frozen: Ice cream
Egg products Unprocessed, processed, dry	Unprocessed: Egg yolk, whole shell eggs, raw liquid egg product
	Processed: Pasteurized whole liquid egg
	Dry: Whole egg powder, egg white powder, egg yolk powder, powder for custard, powder for pancake mix, powder for egg preparation
Fishery products Raw and RTC, RTE and RTRH	Raw and RTC: Frozen breaded Alaskan hake, frozen grilled fish fillet, breaded hoki, frozen salmon fillet, frozen sole fillet, frozen cod fillet, fresh cod fillet, frozen sea bream steak, frozen tuna steak, fresh cutlassfish fillet, whiting fillet, coley fillet, ling fillet, raw salmon, mullet fillet
	RTE and RTRH: Smoked salmon, smoked herring
Produce Fresh, frozen, processed	Fresh: Cantaloupe, lettuce, cauliflower, mâche lettuce, red cabbage, tomato, green pepper, red pepper, zucchini, eggplant, leek
	Frozen: Green beans, artichoke hearts, mixed vegetables, spinach
	Processed: Grated white cabbage, grated carrots, grated celery, mixed crudité, frozen vegetable cakes, frozen creamed spinach, processed tomatoes, steamed green vegetables, frozen vegetable cake, ready-to-reheat vegetables
Dried cereals, fruits, nuts, seeds, and vegetables	Peanut butter, roasted tagine spices, roasted tandoori spices, coriander, cinnamon, parsley
Infant formula and cereals	Infant formula with and without probiotics, infant cereal with and without probiotics, infant formula ingredients (lactoproteins, maltodextrin, whey powders, caseinate, starch, nonfat dry milk, whey protein isolate)
Pet food and animal feed	Raw pet food, wet pet food, dry pet food, cat food, dog food, sausage for dog, animal feed, goat feed, chicken feed, pig feed, sheep feed, duck feed, dehydrated protein
Environmental samples	Process water, rinse water, wastewater, dust, food production environmental surfaces, surface wipe

RTC, ready to cook; RTE, ready to eat; RTRH, ready to reheat.

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