

General Description

The AssureSwab is a self-contained environmental sampling device for use in environmental monitoring. The AssureSwab sampling device consists of a Dacron tipped swab and letheen broth to facilitate recovery of bacteria. It can be used with most film and plating systems including the SimPlate method.

The AssureSwab sampling device can be used on either wet or dry surfaces to monitor the processing environment as part of a HACCP monitoring program.

IMPORTANT USAGE GUIDELINES

AssureSwab sampling device alone will not detect bacterial colonies. It must be used with plating systems such as SimPlate.

Do not use the AssureSwab more than once.

Activated AssureSwab devices should be placed upright in a test tube rack for transport to the laboratory. Do not invert or lay activated devices flat as the letheen solution may leak.

Test Procedure

A. Sampling with a Dry Swab

- 1) Label the device.
- 2) Twist and pull to remove the sampling device from the collection tube.
- 3) Hold sampling device handle at approximately a 30° angle relative to the surface being swabbed. Using a rotating motion, rub the swab slowly over the surface. A typical sampling area is 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in). Consult your company's HACCP procedure for sampling guidelines.
- 4) Place the device back into the collection tube and activate the device by fully depressing the plunger. Letheen broth is released into the collection tube.

NOTE: Transfer the entire letheen broth contents as soon as possible after sample collection.

- 5) Vortex or shake vigorously for 10 seconds. Remove sampling device and press out the excess broth against the interior wall of the collection tube before plating.
- 6) To plate the sample, transfer the entire letheen broth contents from the collection tube onto a plating device or into enrichment media.

NOTE: The letheen broth may be transferred to a sterile dilution blank (preferably not more than 10 mL) if multiple microbiological tests are required of the sample.

- 7) Decontaminate the collection tube and sampling device per standard laboratory procedures.



B. Sampling with a Wet Swab

- 1) Label the device.
- 2) Activate the device by fully depressing plunger. Letheen broth is dispensed into the collection tube, wetting the tip.
- 3) Twist and pull to remove the sampling device from the collection tube. Remove sampling device and press out the excess broth against the interior wall of the collection tube before swabbing.
- 4) Hold sampling device handle at approximately a 30° angle relative to the surface being swabbed. Using a rotating motion, rub the swab slowly over the surface. A typical sampling area is 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in). Consult your company's HACCP procedure for sampling guidelines.
- 5) Place the device back into the collection tube.

NOTE: Transfer the entire letheen broth contents as soon as possible after sample collection.

- 6) Vortex or shake vigorously for 10 seconds. Remove sampling device and press out the excess broth against the interior wall of the collection tube before plating.
- 7) To plate the sample, transfer the entire letheen broth contents from the collection device onto a plating device or enrichment media.

NOTE: The letheen broth may be transferred to a sterile dilution blank (preferably not more than 10 mL) if multiple microbiological tests are required of the sample.

- 8) Decontaminate the collection tube and sampling device per standard laboratory procedures.

C. Precautions and Warnings

- As with any swab sampling method, the best practice is to re-sanitize the swabbed area after sampling.

D. Storage

- Sampling devices should be stored at 2-8°C (36-47°F).

AssureSwab Sample Device Limited Warranty

BioControl Systems, Inc. (BCS) warrants this product to be free from defects in materials and workmanship, when stored under labeled conditions and used as intended until the expiration date stated on the package. BCS agrees during the applicable warranty period to replace all defective products after return to BCS. BCS shall not have obligation under this Limited Warranty to make replacements which result, in whole or in part, from negligence of the Buyer, or from improper use of the products, or use of the product in a manner for which it was not indicated. Buyer shall notify BCS of any products which it believes to be defective during the warranty period. At BCS option, such products shall be returned to BCS, transportation and insurance prepaid. BCS shall replace any such product found to be defective, at no charge. Should BCS examination not disclose any defect covered by the foregoing warranty, BCS shall so advise Buyers and dispose of the product in accordance with Buyer's instructions.

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BIOCONTROL
www.biocontrolsys.com

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North America: tel +1.425.603.1123 bcs_us@biocontrolsys.com
Asia Pacific: tel +852 5808.2443 bcs_asiapacific@biocontrolsys.com
Brazil: tel +55 19.3213.5919 bcs_latinamerica@biocontrolsys.com
France: tel +33 (0)4.7271.5680 bcs_fr@biocontrolsys.com
Italy: tel +39 06.9148.831 bcs_it@biocontrolsys.com
Netherlands: tel +31 (0)180.333.955 bcs_nl@biocontrolsys.com
United Kingdom: tel +44 (0)845.539.9902 bcs_uk@biocontrolsys.com