

HYCON® Contact Slides Blank Slide Kit

Ordering number: 1440240020

The Blank Strip Kit consists of 20 empty, sterile, and sealed slides. It is intended for applications where ready-to-use HYCON® contact slides do not meet the operator's requirements. Blank strips are coated with self-made, specialized agar media and are used for monitoring of even and curved surfaces. The contact area is 25m².

Application and Interpretation

Blank slides are used for special applications in microbial surface monitoring.

A. Filling the blank strips:

According to ISO 11133 cool the molten medium to 47° C to 50°C in a thermostatically controlled water bath. The time needed to reach 47°C to 50°C depends on the type of medium, the volume and the number of units in the water bath. Molten medium should be used as soon as possible, but it is recommended that it should not be retained for more than 4 h. In the case of particularly sensitive media, the holding time of molten media shall be shortened, and this will be specified in the relevant International Standard. Unused medium shall not be re-solidified and reused.

Open the wrapper approximately at 1/3 by peeling back the plastic seal at the rounded side of the wrapper. Remove the slide.

Fill the slide evenly with 12 mL of a pre-prepared agar medium by applying aseptic techniques. Allow medium to solidify.

Replace the slide into the original wrapper with the agar surface facing downwards. Close the wrapper with the included cover slide until use.

B. Surface sampling:

Equilibrate the contact slide at room temperature prior to use.

Remove slide from wrapper. With the agar surface facing down contact the area to be examined by careful bending the slide. Do not rub over the surface. Please refer to ISO 14698.

Replace the contact slide into the wrapper with the agar surface facing downwards. Seal the wrapper with the cover slides.

Label the wrapper with appropriate information.

Proceed with incubation according to the characteristics of the specific agar medium.

After incubation, the colony-forming units (CFUs) are analyzed by visual inspection directly through the sealed wrapper.

Important Notes

Filled slides have a limited expiry (danger to dry out).

Prior to use the slide should be subjected to a visual inspection for contamination. Dehydrated or contaminated agar strips should be discarded.

Practice aseptic technique when handling contact slides.

The coated surface of the contact slides should face downwards during incubation in order to avoid the formation of satellite colonies created by condensation.

Storage

The product can be used until the expiry date if stored in the original box, protected from light and properly sealed at the temperature range indicated on the box label. The total shelf life from date of production is 24 months.

Condensation can be prevented by avoiding quick temperature shifts and mechanical stress. Upon storage Contact Slides should not be placed near heat sources such as refrigerators with heat-emitting condensers. Filled Contact Slides should be stored with the coated side of the contact slide facing downwards.

Disposal

Please mind the respective regulations for the disposal of used culture medium (e.g. autoclave for 20 min at 121°C, disinfect, incinerate etc.).

Quality Control

The Blank Slide KIT is tested for sterility to be sterile after 7 days at 20-25°C and 30-35°C. Please refer to the actual batch related Certificate of Analysis.

www.merckmillipore.com/biomonitoring

Quality

This product is manufactured in a Millipore SAS facility whose quality management system is approved by an accredited registration body to ISO 9001 quality standard.

This product is manufactured in a Millipore SAS facility whose environmental management is approved by an accredited registration body to the appropriate ISO 14001 systems standard.

Literature

ISO 11133 (2014-11-01): Microbiology of food, animal feed and water — Preparation, production, storage and performance testing of culture media.

ISO 14698-1:2003: Cleanrooms and associated controlled environments - Biocontamination control - Part 1: General principles and methods.

ISO 18593:2004-06: Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal methods for sampling techniques from surfaces using contact plates and swabs.

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