



# Standard Test Method for Enumeration of Yeast and Mold in Raceway Brine, Brine-Cured Hides and Skins<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7817; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the enumeration of yeast and mold. This test method is applicable to raceway brine, brine-cured hides and skins, and pre-charge raceway liquor.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[D6715 Practice for Sampling and Preparation of Fresh or Salt-Preserved \(Cured\) Hides and Skins for Chemical and Physical Tests](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

[E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 Samples of brine-cured hides and skins, raceway brine, or pre-charge raceway liquor are serially diluted and plated on agar containing 7 % NaCl and an antibiotic solution. The plates are incubated at 20 – 25°C for 5 days.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method enumerates salt tolerant yeast and mold, and under the conditions of this test method those are

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D31 on Leather and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D31.02 on Wet Blue.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

equated as halophilic organisms. Salt tolerant yeast and mold have been known to cause damage to hides and skins in raceway brine.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Incubator*, 20 – 25°C.

5.2 *Colony counter*—(not mandatory, but highly recommended).

5.3 *Sterile pipets*.

5.4 *Stomacher*, for mixing initial dilution. (If stomacher is unavailable, hand-mix.)

5.5 *Balance*.

5.6 *Sterile petri dishes*.

5.7 *Autoclave (sterilizer)*—(Check the effectiveness of sterilization weekly. For example, place spore suspensions or strips of *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (commercially available) inside glassware for a full autoclave cycle. Follow manufacturer's directions for sterilization of specific media.)

5.8 *pH meter*.

5.9 *Waterbath*, 45 ± 1°C.

5.10 *Stomacher bags*, or sterile, sealable quart plastic bag (e.g. food storage type, sterile bag).

5.11 *Cutting tool*, sterile (e.g. scalpel blade and forcep, as needed for cutting cured hides and skins).

5.12 *Vortex mixer*, for mixing dilution tubes (optional).

5.13 *Autoclave thermometer*.

## 6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *Butterfield's Phosphate Stock Solution*—Dissolve 34 g  $\text{KH}_2\text{PO}_4$  (Potassium Phosphate monobasic) in 500 mL DI water. Adjust the pH to 7.2 ± 0.1 with 1N – 6N NaOH. Bring volume to 1 L with DI water. Sterilize for 15 min at 121°C.

NOTE 1—Typical autoclave setting is 120 – 124°C. (See 5.7.)

6.2 *Butterfield's Phosphate Diluent with salt (BPD w/salt)*—Take 1.25 mL of Butterfield's Phosphate Stock solution (6.1) and bring to 1 L with DI water, then add 77 g of salt (NaCl) per litre prior to autoclaving. Dispense into 1-L bottles and 9-mL dilution tubes. Sterilize for 15 min at 121°C. (See Note 1.)

6.3 *Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA)*.

6.4 *Antibiotic solution*—(Chloramphenicol)<sup>3</sup> – (needed to inhibit bacterial growth on agar).

6.5 *Distilled or deionized water*.

6.6 *Salt (NaCl)*, Sodium chloride – reagent grade.

6.7 *1N – 6N NaOH*.

6.8 *Bacillus stearothermophilus* spore suspensions or strips (commercially available), or equivalent.

**7. Hazards**

7.1 All reagents and chemicals should be handled with care. Before using any chemical, read and follow all safety precautions and instructions on the manufacturer’s label or MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet).

**8. Sampling**

8.1 The specimen shall be sampled in accordance with Practice D6715, and placed in sterile containers.

**9. Preparation of Potato Dextrose Agar and Antibiotic Solution**

9.1 Prepare the antibiotic stock (10 000 ppm) solution by dissolving 1 g of chloramphenicol in 100 mL sterile deionized or distilled water. Store this stock solution in a dark location at ≤5°C for up to two months.

<sup>3</sup> The sole source of supply known to the committee at this time is Sigma-Aldrich, Cat. # C0378 (25 g). If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,<sup>1</sup> which you may attend.

9.2 Suspend 39 g of Potato Dextrose Agar in 1 L of deionized or distilled water and heat to boiling to dissolve completely.

9.3 Add 77 g of NaCl per litre of agar. Add 10 mL of chloramphenicol stock solution per litre of agar to give a concentration of 100 ppm. Sterilize in the autoclave for 15 min at 121°C. (See Note 1.) Cool to 45 ± 1°C in a waterbath. Once medium has been tempered, it can be held for 2 – 3 h before use, provided the water level in the waterbath is 2 – 3 cm above the surface of the agar. Final pH of the agar: 5.6 ± 0.2.

**10. Procedure**

10.1 Using a sterile scalpel, aseptically weigh a 20 ± 0.1 g specimen in a sterile bag. For brine-cured hides and skins, include both flesh and hair side.

10.2 Add 180 g of BPD w/salt (6.2) diluent into the same sterile bag (10.1). Stomach or hand-massage for 1 min. This provides a 1:10 dilution.

10.3 Prepare the following sample dilutions: 10<sup>-2</sup>, 10<sup>-3</sup>, 10<sup>-4</sup>, 10<sup>-5</sup>, 10<sup>-6</sup>, and 10<sup>-7</sup> (see Fig. 1).

10.3.1 *Control Blank*—In 10.5, pour melted media that has been previously tempered to 45 ± 1°C into a dish, then continue with 10.6 as with the sample plates.

Example: To obtain a 10<sup>-2</sup> dilution, mix the 10<sup>-1</sup> dilution and pipet 1 mL of that 10<sup>-1</sup> dilution into a 9-mL dilution tube.

NOTE 2—When transferring the aliquots between the tubes, the analyst must use a different pipet or pipet tip for each transfer.

10.4 Pipet 1 mL of each dilution into the appropriate, separate petri dishes.

10.5 Pour prepared agar (9.3) that has been previously tempered to 45 ± 1°C into the dish.

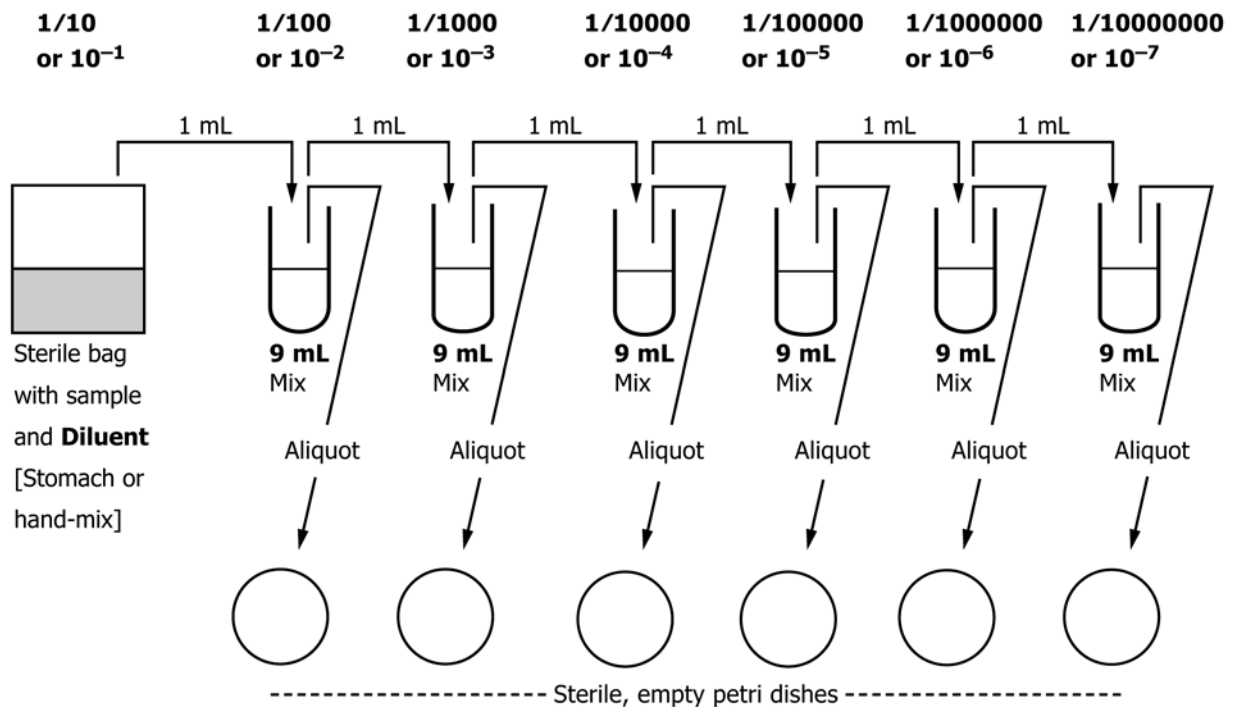


FIG. 1 Plating

NOTE 3—Add agar within 1–2 min after adding dilution to avoid adherence of sample to bottom of dish. Do not pour agar directly on the sample. Replace the cover.

10.6 Swirl the plate gently in a figure-eight motion to evenly distribute the sample.

10.7 Allow agar to solidify.

10.8 Incubate at 20–25°C for 5 days (a cabinet at room temperature is acceptable for use).

NOTE 4—Do not stack plates higher than 3, and do not invert the plates. Let plates remain undisturbed until time for counting. Moving the plates could dislodge spores, thus creating extraneous growths that are not part of the original colony.

10.9 Following incubation, count only those plates that have 10–150 colonies.

NOTE 5—Estimated counts can be made on plates with >150 colonies: report as estimated counts. In making such counts, the standard 15 × 100 mm petri dish is considered to have an area of about 56 cm<sup>2</sup>, therefore, use a factor of 56 when estimating the count. Example: 1 mL of a 10<sup>-4</sup> dilution was plated and the plate has an average count of 5 colonies per cm<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, the estimated count for that plate is 5 × 56 = 280, and the estimated count for that dilution is 280 × 10,000 = 2,800,000. Estimated counts can also be made on plates with <10 colonies: report as estimated counts.

10.10 Record each plate’s dilution and count on the worksheet. Record the yeast count as A, and record the mold as B.

NOTE 6—Yeast colonies will appear as 2–3 mm in diameter with a satin-like or matte finish. Most are opaque white, but they may be pigmented (orange or pink), sometimes yellow. Most produce a fermented fruity or bakery aroma. They are convex or conical (raised off the surface) in shape.

NOTE 7—Mold colonies will have a whiskery or cotton tuft-like appearance and may tend to spread over the surface of the agar. They are usually gray, brown, blue-green and green in color, and sometimes become dark gray or even black. Count from the underside of the plate when mold overgrowth has occurred. If mold colonies are present, do not open the plates. Tape them shut before proper disposal.

NOTE 8—If mainly yeasts are present, plates with 150 colonies are usually countable. However, if substantial amounts of mold are present, depending on the type of mold, the upper countable limit may be lowered at the discretion of the analyst.

## 11. Calculation of Results for Yeast and Mold

11.1 Calculate by using the following formula:

$$\text{Yeast} = A \times C \quad (1)$$

where:

A = number of colonies counted in step 10.10, and  
C = dilution factor (see Table 1).

$$\text{Mold} = B \times C \quad (2)$$

where:

B = number of colonies counted in step 10.10, and  
C = dilution factor (see Table 1).

TABLE 1 Dilution Factor

| Test Tube Plated (10.4) | Dilution Factor |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 10 <sup>-2</sup>        | 100             |
| 10 <sup>-3</sup>        | 1,000           |
| 10 <sup>-4</sup>        | 10,000          |
| 10 <sup>-5</sup>        | 100,000         |
| 10 <sup>-6</sup>        | 1,000,000       |
| 10 <sup>-7</sup>        | 10,000,000      |

## 12. Report

12.1 Report the results from 11.1 as Yeast (salt tolerant) cfu per g of sample, Mold (salt tolerant) cfu per g of sample respectively.

NOTE 9—When requested, the counts for yeast and mold may be combined as one count, and reported as “Yeast & Mold”.

## 13. Precision and Bias

13.1 The precision of this test method is based on an interlaboratory study of D7817, conducted in 2009. One laboratory participated in this study. The laboratory reported 5 replicate test results for six different specimen types. Every “test result” reported represents an individual determination. Except for the use of only one laboratory, Practice E691 was followed for the design and analysis of the data; the details are given in an ASTM Research Report.<sup>4</sup>

13.1.1 *Repeatability limit (r)*—Two test results obtained within one laboratory shall be judged not equivalent if they differ by more than the “r” value for that material; “r” is the interval representing the critical difference between two test results for the same material, obtained by the same operator using the same equipment on the same day in the same laboratory.

13.1.1.1 Repeatability limits are listed in Table 2.

13.1.2 *Reproducibility limit (R)*—Two test results shall be judged not equivalent if they differ by more than the “R” value for that material; “R” is the interval representing the critical difference between two test results for the same material, obtained by different operators using different equipment in different laboratories.

13.1.2.1 Reproducibility limits cannot be determined with data from only one reporting laboratory.

13.1.3 The above terms (repeatability limit and reproducibility limit) are used as specified in Practice E177.

13.1.4 Any judgment in accordance with 13.1.1 would normally have an approximate 95 % probability of being correct, however the precision statistics obtained in this ILS must not be treated as exact mathematical quantities which are applicable to all circumstances and uses. The limited number of locations tested and laboratories reporting results guarantees that there will be times when differences greater than predicted by the ILS results will arise, sometimes with considerably greater or smaller frequency than the 95 % probability limit would imply. Consider the repeatability limit as a general

<sup>4</sup> Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:D31-1016.

TABLE 2 Halophilic Bacteria (log count)

| Material   | Average   | Repeatability Standard Deviation | Repeatability Limit |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
|            | $\bar{x}$ | $s_r$                            | $r$                 |
| HGS Flesh  | 4.71      | 0.44                             | 1.25                |
| HGS Hair   | 4.79      | 0.35                             | 0.98                |
| IPHS Flesh | 4.31      | 0.24                             | 0.66                |
| IPHS Hair  | 3.62      | 0.31                             | 0.87                |
| CHS Flesh  | 3.55      | 0.17                             | 0.48                |
| CHS Hair   | 2.97      | 0.17                             | 0.48                |

guide, and the associated probability of 95 % as only a rough indicator of what can be expected.

13.2 *Bias*—At the time of the study, no accepted reference material suitable for determining the bias for this test method was utilized, therefore no statement on bias is being made.

13.3 The precision statement was determined through statistical examination of 30 results, from one laboratory, on six materials. These materials were described as the following:

- Material 1: HGS Flesh – Flesh side – uncured (green)
- Material 2: HGS Hair – Hair side – uncured (green)
- Material 3: IPHS Flesh – Flesh side – in process ~ 6 hours
- Material 4: IPHS Hair – Hair side – in process ~ 6 hours
- Material 5: CHS Flesh – Flesh side – cured ~16 hours
- Material 6: CHS Hair – Hair side – cured ~ 16 hours

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13.3.1 To judge the equivalency of two test results, it is recommended to choose the material described as closest in characteristics and concentration to the test material.

#### **14. Keywords**

14.1 bacteria; brine; halophilic; hides; mold; raceway; salt tolerant; skins; yeast