

# 3M Tecra *Listeria* Visual Immunoassay for Environmental Testing Receives AOAC-PTM Approval

3M Food Safety announced today that its 3M™ Tecra™ *Listeria* Visual Immunoassay (VIA) for Environmental Testing (#091201) has received validation from the AOAC Research Institute's Performance Tested Methods<sup>SM</sup> Program. This announcement comes mere weeks after a U.S.-based *Listeria* outbreak linked to imported ricotta cheese affected 12 states, and resulted in 15 hospitalizations and three deaths. The impact of foodborne pathogens such as *Listeria* make it increasingly important that food processing plants are able to monitor *Listeria* levels with consistent, frequent testing.

The newly AOAC-PTM validated 3M Tecra *Listeria* VIA allows food processors to monitor *Listeria* levels to identify hot spots within the plant and track progress. Using 3M™ Enviro Swabs or 3M™ Sponges, the sample is collected and enriched before being placed in the assay where the results are read and interpreted. Providing results in just 48 hours, the VIA assures confidence in product safety while offering flexibility in the testing process.

"The 3M Tecra *Listeria* VIA provides operation flexibility, further validating the diverse solutions 3M Food Safety is bringing to the marketplace," said DeAnn Benesh, regulatory affairs specialist with 3M Food Safety. "This validation, coupled with recent 3M™ Molecular Detection Assay approvals, demonstrates 3M's commitment to quality and safe food."

The AOAC Research Institute bases certification of methods on independent study results demonstrating that a given method meets its product performance claims as expressed in the product package insert. For the 3M Tecra *Listeria* VIA PTM study, artificially contaminated surfaces were evaluated as compared to the appropriate U.S. Food and Drug Administration or U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service reference method. 3M Enviro Swabs and 3M Sponges were used as collection devices in this study of select surfaces of stainless steel, plastic and concrete. No statistically significant differences were found in results between the 3M method and the reference methods.

For more information, visit [www.3M.com/foodsafety/TecraLISENVAOAC](http://www.3M.com/foodsafety/TecraLISENVAOAC)

AOAC RI, based in Gaithersburg, Md., is a subsidiary of AOAC International, a globally recognized, independent, not-for-profit association founded in 1884. AOAC serves communities of the analytical sciences by providing the tools and processes necessary to develop voluntary consensus standards or technical standards through stakeholder consensus and working groups in which the fit-for-purpose and method performance criteria are established and fully documented. AOAC provides a science-based solution and its Official Methods of Analysis gives defensibility, credibility and confidence in decision-making. AOAC Official Methods are accepted and recognized worldwide.

3M Food Safety is a leader of innovative solutions that help the food and beverage industries optimize the quality and safety of their products to enable consumer protection. At every step, 3M Food Safety provides solutions that help mitigate risk, improve operational efficiencies and impact the bottom line. Follow us on Twitter [@3M\\_FoodSafety](https://twitter.com/3M_FoodSafety).

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