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Nestlé Quality Assurance Center
Dublin

Technical Datasheet

Analysis Name: Examination of Canned Product Spoilage Assessment

Method Number: NQA-00.4405

Scope of Application: Method to establish the causes of microbiological spoilage in low-acid, high acid, and acidified low-acid canned foods. Spoilage assessment may be used for the initial identification of potential food safety problems.

It is intended that these procedures be used in the investigation of the causes of microbiological spoilage and not to establish the total absence of viable organisms in a single container or to determine commercial sterility of a lot. They have no role in establishing "commercial sterility".

Description: This spoilage diagnosis procedure is intended for use in distinguishing between post-process contamination (leakage) and insufficient thermal processing. Vegetative cells (including yeasts) have little or no heat resistance while Bacterial spores are heat resistant, so a pure culture of spore forming organisms indicates insufficient thermal processing. A mixed flora of different vegetative organisms usually indicates leakage.

Sample Weight Required: Un-opened original sample container.

Method Reference: Bacteriological Analytical Manual, FDA, 2001, chapter 21A, Examination of Canned Foods.

Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods, 2015, 5th edition, American Public Health Association, Inc., Washington, D. C.

Analytical Platform: Cultural method



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Special Information: Can be used on product containers other than cans. If growth is recovered, an identification of the organism will be performed and included in results. An unspoiled, sterile sample container should be included and tested with the suspected spoiled sample as a negative control reference.

Analyte Reported	Alias	Unit of Measure	Limit of Quantification	Reproducibility
pH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gross Weight	N/A	g	N/A	N/A
Net Weight	N/A	g	N/A	N/A
Aerobic Growth/35°C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Anaerobic Growth/35°C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aerobic Growth/55°C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Anaerobic Growth/55°C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Direct Smear	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Organoleptic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Appearance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Visual Exam of Can	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A