CERTIFICATION

AOAC Research Institute
Performance Tested Methods℠

Certificate No.

111703

The AOAC Research Institute hereby certifies the method known as:

Easy Plate™ SA

manufactured by

Kikkoman Biochemifa Company
2-1-1, Nishi-shinbashi
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003 Japan

This method has been evaluated and certified according to the policies and procedures of the AOAC *Performance Tested Methods*℠ Program. This certificate indicates an AOAC Research Institute Certification Mark License Agreement has been executed which authorizes the manufacturer to display the AOAC Research Institute *Performance Tested Methods*℠ certification mark on the above-mentioned method for the period below. Renewal may be granted by the Expiration Date under the rules stated in the licensing agreement.

Bradley A. Stawick, AOAC Research Institute Senior Director

Issue Date	January 21, 2026
Expiration Date	December 31, 2026

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METHOD NAME
Easy Plate™ SA
Formerly known as Medi·Ca SA

CATALOG NUMBER
61976

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATION DATE
November 15, 2017

PRINCIPLE OF THE METHOD

Easy Plate SA is a ready-made dry medium for *Staphylococcus aureus* count made up of four components: a waterproof sheet, a dry medium containing a gelling agent and the chromogenic enzyme substrates, a hydrophobic resin ring surrounding the medium, and a transparent cover over the medium. A sample suspension is dispensed on the center of the medium while the cover is lifted. After that, the cover is gently dropped to evenly spread the suspension on the medium. The suspension rapidly soaks into the medium, which turns into a gel in 3 minutes. The incubation of the sheet at 35 ± 1° or 37 ± 1°C for 24 ± 1 h develops blue colonies for *S. aureus* because of the enzymatic reaction involving the substrate.

CERTIFIED CLAIM STATEMENT: The Easy Plate SA method is certified for the enumeration of *Staphylococcus aureus* within the scope of Tables 1 and 2 and with the modifications indicated in Table 3.

Table 1. Method Performance Claims

Matrix	Test Portion	Diluent[a]	Diluent Volume	Plate Incubation		Reference Method[b]	Claim[c]
				Temperature	Time		
Raw beef	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Raw ground beef	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Raw lamb	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Cooked ham	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Raw salmon	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Frozen prawn	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Fresh chilled pasta	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Pasteurized milk	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Natural cheese	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Cream puff	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq
Potato salad	50 g	BPD	450 mL	35 ± 1°C or 37 ± 1°C	24 ± 1 h	OMA 975.55	Eq

[a] BPD = Butterfield's phosphate-buffered diluent.

[b] OMA = Official Methods of Analysis.

[c] Eq = Equivalence of candidate and reference methods demonstrated by the ≥90% confidence interval on difference of means contained entirely within -0.5 to 0.5 $\log_{10}$ using SLV study design from OMA Appendix J (2012) for at least 2 of the 3 levels, including the low level, tested for that matrix. If either the medium or high level does not meet the equivalence criterion, it must have an observed DOM within -0.5 to 0.5 $\log_{10}$.

Table 2. Method Selectivity

Inclusivity Strains		Exclusivity Strains	
No. Tested	No. Positive	No. Tested	No. Positive
52	52	55[b]	1[c]

[a] Comprising 15 Gram negative species, 3 fungi species and 37 Gram positive species including 21 *Staphylococcus* species (non-*aureus*)

[b] *Staphylococcus schleiferi* (ATCC 43808) formed typical colonies.

Table 3. Method History

No.	Date	Summary	Supporting Data
1	November 2017	Original Certification	Certification Report
2	February 2020	Level 2 Modification: Manufacturing location change from Tokyo, Japan, to Kanagawa, Japan	Modification 1 Report
3	June 2021	Level 1 Modification: Rebranded kit to reflect method developer change from Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd. to Kikkoman Biochemifa Company and method name change from Medi·Ca SA to Easy Plate SA	NA[a]
4	March 2022	Level 2 Modification: Manufacturing location change	Modification 2 Report
5	March 2024	Level 2 Modification: Change to the outer pouch material	Modification 3 Report

[a] Not applicable