

**Title: 3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Count Plate System
Interrupted Alternative Test Method**

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The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to provide a suggested alternate method to customers wishing to interrupt the 3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Count Plate and Disk test method.

To obtain the best results when using the 3M Petrifilm Staph Express Count System, the procedure outlined in the package insert should be followed. If it is necessary to interrupt the recommended 3M Petrifilm Staph Express System test procedure, the following procedures are suggested:

- Prepare food samples and inoculate the Petrifilm Staph Express Count Plates with 1 mL of sample.
- Incubate plates for 24 ± 2 hours at $35^{\circ} \text{C} \pm 1^{\circ} \text{C}$ or $37^{\circ} \text{C} \pm 1^{\circ} \text{C}$ (temperature based on validated references).
- Place the plates in a sealed bag or other appropriate sealed container after the initial 24-hour incubation period and freeze for up to one week.
- When ready to complete the test, remove the plates from the freezer and allow them to thaw to room temperature.
- Plates with no colonies or only red-violet colonies may be read and results reported.
- Add the 3M™ Petrifilm™ Staph Express Count Disk to plates with colony colors other than just red-violet (such as black or blue-green) and re-incubate at $35^{\circ} \text{C} \pm 1^{\circ} \text{C}$ or $37^{\circ} \text{C} \pm 1^{\circ} \text{C}$ for at least 60 minutes and not longer than 3 hours. Check the plates periodically — the DNase reaction may give final results in less than 3 hours.
- Remove the plates with disks from incubator and read pink zones. Colonies with pink zones are confirmed as *Staphylococcus aureus*.

This is the only alternative method recommended and is a deviation from the validated reference methods.

Note: This alternative method is possible because the zones use an enzyme reaction rather than colony growth.

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