



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 2, 2016

TO: Method Developers, AOAC Reviewers/Volunteers for AOAC *Performance Tested Methods*SM and AOAC *Official Methods*SM Programs, and AOAC Technical Consultants and Staff

FROM: Deborah McKenzie, Senior Director - AOAC Research Institute

RE: **TECHNICAL BULLETIN: TB02MAY2016: Acceptable Validation Claims for Proprietary/Commercial Microbiology Methods for Foods and Environmental Surfaces**

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 15, 2016

The following are acceptable claims for methods applicable to multiple matrices. While it is acceptable to use these claims, each matrix for which the method has been validated must be listed. Please refer to Table 1 for claim options and Table 2 for acceptable Environmental Surfaces.

As additional recommendations are made, the bulletin will be updated. If there are any questions or comments regarding the recommendations, please contact me at dmckenzie@aoac.org. Thank you very much.

Table 1: Acceptable Multiple Matrix Claims

Multiple Matrix Claim	Criteria	
Broad Range of Foods	Number of Matrices 15 (3 foods/category)	Number of Categories/Groups ¹ 5 categories
Variety of Foods	≥ 10	5 categories
Selected Foods	≥ 5	2 categories
Food Category/Group	≥ 5	1 category
Environmental Surfaces	7	Not applicable
Selected Surfaces	2-6	Not applicable

Table 2: Acceptable Environmental Surfaces

1. Air Filter Material	2. Cast Iron <i>coated to prevent rusting</i>	3. Ceramic <i>glazed earthen material or glass</i>	4. Plastic <i>polyethylene, polypropylene, polycarbonate</i>
5. Rubber	6. Sealed concrete	7. Stainless Steel	

¹ Acceptable food categories sources for these claims are:

- Use the Foods Categories Table and information in *ISO 16140, Annex A*.
- Use Feldsine et al.: *Journal of AOAC INTERNATIONAL* Vol. 85, No. 5, 2002, pp. 1187-1200.