



Laboratory Proficiency Testing Program

LS01

***Listeria* Environmental Swab Program**

09-15-2025 (Shipment Date)

10-27-2025 (Final Report Issue Date)

Round ID: LS01-091525



CERT # 1782.01

Proficiency Testing Provider

AOAC INTERNATIONAL
Shane Flynn,
Senior Director
2275 Research Blvd. ste 300
Rockville, MD 20850
301-924-7077
LPTP@AOAC.org

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Report Authorization

This report has been authorized by Shane Flynn, Senior Director
of the AOAC laboratory Proficiency Testing Program.

Shane P Flynn

**REPORT TO PARTICIPANTS IN
THE AOAC® LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING
PROGRAM**

LS01 *Listeria* Environmental Swab

1.0 Introduction

Test materials for the *Listeria* Environmental Swab Program were shipped to participants on September 15, 2025. Each laboratory was given a site identification number to maintain confidentiality. Participants were encouraged to analyze the samples on September 16, 2025, or no later than 48 hours after reception. The instructions for analysis were provided with the samples and were available online. The participants were to submit an electronic response online to verify the condition of the test materials upon receipt and confirm the safe handling of the test materials containing *Listeria*. Participants were instructed to analyze the test materials according to procedures routinely used in their laboratories. The results were to be submitted to AOAC by September 30, 2025.

2.0 Preparation of Test Materials

Each set of test materials included four swabs in individual, color labeled, test tubes. All samples were for qualitative testing. Each sample was individually inoculated. Two duplicate samples were selected to verify the presence or absence of *Listeria*. For the inoculation scheme, three samples were individually inoculated with approximately 250 cells/gram of organisms. Two samples were inoculated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, one sample was inoculated with *Listeria innocua* and one sample was uninoculated. The Inoculation scheme is Appendix C, homogeneity is Appendix D and stability is Appendix E.

Samples were prepared by the following laboratory:

Mérieux NutriSciences
Silliker® Food Science Center
3600 Eagle Nest Drive, Bldg. A
Crete, IL 60417

3.0 Analyses Requested

Samples 1-4	<i>Listeria</i>
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Report species if applicable to your laboratory

4.0 Results

Confidentiality of results will be maintained by issuing site identification codes to the participants. Results in reports will only be identified by the site identification code. Results of participants were compared to the expected results. There was inadequate information about the methodology used to group the results according to method for this shipment.

If a participant would like to appeal against the assessment of their performance in this proficiency testing scheme, please contact staff at LPTP@AOAC.org

4.1 Comments and Recommendations

One laboratory reported a false negative for sample 4. One laboratory incorrectly reported *Listeria innocua* for species ID for samples 2 & 3. One laboratory incorrectly reported *Listeria monocytogenes* for species ID for sample 4. AOAC encourages participating laboratories to investigate any false positives, or false negatives.

For laboratories using a method or test kit that tests only for the presence or absence of *Listeria monocytogenes* (reported as present or Not *Listeria monocytogenes*) - review the expected results for *Listeria* identification or the inoculation scheme (Appendix C) to distinguish what samples were positive for a *Listeria* spp. other than *Listeria monocytogenes*.

4.2 Evaluations

Color coded evaluations are now provided. The participating laboratory's reported results are compared to the expected results. If results match it is considered **ACCEPTABLE**. If results do not match it is considered **UNACCEPTABLE**. If a Laboratory did not report for species identification and an evaluation cannot be determined, it is labeled as **NO EVALUATION**. *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Listeria innocua* were used for this rounds samples. For laboratories using a *L. mono* only confirmation method or test kit, reporting "Other" is an **ACCEPTABLE** result for sample 4 *L. innocua*.

If participants have questions on reporting, please contact PT Staff by sending an email to LPTP@AOAC.org, before officially submitting final results. Once a lab has officially submitted results, no changes can be made.

Individual laboratory results are in Appendix A

Appendix A

Listeria Environmental Swab (LS01)
Qualitative Results Site ID: 187584
 Ship Date - 09/15/2025

Test	Method Reported	Sample	Your Reported Result	% Labs Agreeing With Your Reported Result*	Expected Result	Evaluation
Listeria	B	1	-	100.0	-	ACCEPTABLE
		2	+	100.0	+	ACCEPTABLE
		3	+	100.0	+	ACCEPTABLE
		4	+	95.7	+	ACCEPTABLE
Listeria species ID		1	Not Tested	.	Not Tested	ACCEPTABLE
		2	L. monocytogenes	.	L. monocytogenes	ACCEPTABLE
		3	L. monocytogenes	.	L. monocytogenes	ACCEPTABLE
		4	L. innocua	.	L. innocua	ACCEPTABLE

* % based on labs reporting results



LS01 *Listeria* Environmental Swab PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

Sample:	Enclosed are 4 swabs for analysis. AOAC encourages laboratories to analyze the samples as soon as possible on the day they are received but no later than 48 hours after receipt. Sample should arrive 8°C or below. These samples should be handled and analyzed in the same manner and following the same analytical standard operating procedures (SOPs) as routine samples.
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Ship Date:	09-15-2025
Result Due Date:	09-30-2025

Storage:	Store samples refrigerated (4°C) until analysis. - Analyze within 48 hours
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Please verify that the label on sample #1 is pink, #2 green, #3 yellow, #4 white
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Analyze samples numbered 1 through 4 for the following:
<i>Listeria</i>- Specify the method. Report as PRESENT or ABSENT or Not <i>L. mono</i> (For laboratories that use test kit/methodology specific to <i>L. mono</i> detection). Species identification can also be reported if applicable to the laboratory. Swabs are directly inoculated so participating labs should analyze the swabs directly with their enrichment process.

Reporting	
Where to Report	https://pt2.aoac.org
How to Report	Step by step instructions for online reporting are available once online account is accessed

Questions and Comments

If you have questions regarding the LS01 PT round, please contact LPTP@AOAC.org.

Test Material Provider:

Mérieux NutriSciences
Silliker® Food Science Center
3600 Eagle Nest Drive, Bldg. A
Crete, IL 60417

Appendix C

Inoculation Scheme LS01 - Environmental Sponges Ship Date: September 15, 2025

Sample	Inoculation Scheme
1	Negative
2	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>
3	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>
4	<i>L. innocua</i>

Appendix D

Homogeneity Analysis LS01 - Environmental Sponges Ship Date: September 15, 2025

Qualitative Results - Per Sponge

Sample	Inoculation Scheme	Results			
		Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Species	
1	Negative	Negative	Negative	NA	PASSED
2	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	Positive	Positive	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	PASSED
3	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>				NA
4	<i>L. innocua</i>	Positive	Positive	<i>L. innocua</i>	PASSED

NA = Not Applicable

Appendix E

Stability Analysis
LS01 - Environmental Sponges
Ship Date: September 15, 2025
Analysis Date: October 1, 2025

Qualitative Results - Per Sponge

Sample	Inoculation Scheme	Results			
		Replicate 1	Replicate 2	Species	
1	Negative	Negative	Negative	NA	PASSED
2	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	Positive	Positive	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	PASSED
3	<i>L. monocytogenes</i>				NA
4	<i>L. innocua</i>	Positive	Positive	<i>L. innocua</i>	PASSED

NA = Not Applicable