



## Compact Dry TC - AOAC 010404

### SCOPE

Foods and swabs.

### PRINCIPLES

Compact Dry TC (total count) is a ready-to-use dry chromogenic plate contains culture media, gelling agent and TTC (2, 3, 5 triphenyl-tetrazolium chloride) as an indicator of bacterial growth. Reduction of TTC by bacteria results in red coloured colonies. Plates are hydrated with sample and gelling agents cause the media to solidify.

Compact Dry plate is not supplied by a NATA certified media supplier and therefore new batches of media must undergo quality control prior to use.

The enumeration of total viable bacterial count is broken down into stages as follows:

- **Inoculation**  
Samples are diluted 1:10 in Butterfield's phosphate diluent or Peptone water<sup>1</sup> or other diluents (as recommended by the manufacturer) and one-mL diluent is placed in the centre of the Compact Dry TC plate. Carcass sponges should be hydrated with 25 ml of diluent. Serial dilutions must be prepared using appropriate diluent.
- **Incubation**  
Compact Dry TC plates are incubated inverted at  $35 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  for 48 h.
- **Interpretation**  
All red colonies and colonies and otherwise coloured are counted. The countable range on Compact Dry TC plate is approximately 30 to 300. For swab samples counts should be expressed in CFU/cm<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Casein peptone 0.1%, Sodium chloride 0.85%, pH 6.9-7.1

**CHECKLIST**

<b>Inoculation</b>	Is the diluent used recommended by the manufacturer?	_____
	Are appropriate dilution used to ensure a counting range of 30 to 300 CFU/plate?	_____
<b>Incubation</b>	What is the storage temperature of Compact Dry plates?	_____
	How are open packs stored?	_____
	What are the incubation conditions and period?	_____
	What is the maximum number of colonies counted on Compact Dry TC plates?	_____
<b>Interpretation</b>	What colonies are identified and counted?	_____
	How are counts outside the countable range reported?	_____