Microbiological Integrity (Soup) Test

(Ref. MICLAB 035)

Filling Machine and Number	
Container Type and Size	
Reason for "Soup" Test	
Number of Units to be Tested	
Initial Date of Test	

Acceptance Criteria:

Not more than 1 in 1000 units to show evidence of microbial contamination.

Equipment Required:

In "Soup Room":

44 Gallon drums on wheel trolleys
Circular mesh lids
Lead divers weights
Nylon netting bags
18mm hose with tap fittings
Drum Outlet valve hoses
Orange Crates

From Microbiology Laboratory:

3kg TSB powder per test drum (5 x 600gm bags / per drum)
1 bottle per test drum of 18hr *E.coli* culture in 250ml TSB
Rubber gloves
Rubber boots
Hibitane
Face-masks
Hair-nets
Thermometer

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"Soup" Test Method: Day 1 **Date Commenced:** _____

- Turn on hot water system, fan and heater.
  Check that the "Soup Room" is at approximately 32°C.

- Prepare 1 x 250ml TSB bottle inoculated with an *E.coli* culture, per test drum.

"Soup" Test Method: Day 2 **Date Commenced:** _____
(for each test drum)

- Weigh out 3kg TSB powder into a white bucket and deliver to "Soup Room" or use 5 x 600gm of pre weighed TSB powder.
- Dissolve TSB powder in drum, using hot water to form a slurry.
- Fill drum with 100 litres of hot water (about the middle of the drum).
- Allow media to cool to approximately 60°C.
- Place sealed nylon bags containing test containers into the drum of media.
- Place circular mesh on top and weigh down with divers weights.
- Allow media to cool to approximately 32°C
- Inoculate with *E.coli* culture.

"Soup" Test Method: Day 7 **Date Commenced:** _____
(for each test drum)

- If not already connected, connect hose to drum outlet.
- Open drum outlet valve and allow "soup" to drain down waste pipe.
- Wash the inside of the drum with cold water until the hose runs clean.
- Close drum outlet valve and fill drum with 100 litres of cold water.
- Add 1 litre of Hibitane and leave for 30 minutes.
- Remove weights and mesh (rinse well).
- Empty drum and rinse nylon bags well with cold water.
- Place rinsed test containers into orange crates and place in "Soup Room" for incubation (15 days from initial inoculation).
- Open drum outlet valve and drain contents down waste pipe.
- Rinse drum thoroughly with cold water.

"Soup" Test Method: Day 16 **Date Commenced:** _____

- Inspect all Containers for evidence of microbial growth.

No. Containers	Batch number	No. Containers Contaminated	Stasis Results

Comment:

_____

_____

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Stasis Method

- Perform Stasis tests on representative samples using *E. coli*.
- Using units from the completed Soup Test, pool enough samples to half fill 2x100ml bottles.
- Inoculate each bottle with *E.coli*, (using weekly stock cultures), and incubate at 32°C for 48hrs.
- Record results in the relevant batch documentation.

Organism	Date	Inoculum	Bottles	Temperature	Result

Test Status: **Pass / Fail:** _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____