

CERTIFICATION

AOAC® *Performance TestedSM*

Certificate No. **051901**

The AOAC Research Institute hereby certifies that the performance of the method known as:

LuciPac A3 Surface

manufactured by

Kikkoman Biochemifa Company 2-1-1, Nishi-shinbashi Minato-ku, Tokyo 1005-0003 Japan

This method has been evaluated in the AOAC® Performance Tested MethodsSM Program and found to perform as stated by the manufacturer contingent to the comments contained in the manuscript. This certificate means that an AOAC® Certification Mark License Agreement has been executed which authorizes the manufacturer to display the AOAC *Performance Tested* SM certification mark along with the statement - "THIS METHOD'S PERFORMANCE WAS REVIEWED BY AOAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND WAS FOUND TO PERFORM TO THE MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS" - on the above-mentioned method for a period of one calendar year from the date of this certificate (December 08, 2021 – December 31, 2022). Renewal may be granted at the end of one year under the rules stated in the licensing agreement.

Scott Crates

 Scott Coates, Senior Director Signature for AOAC Research Institute December 08, 2021

Date

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PRINCIPLE OF THE METHOD (1)

The principle of detection of A3 is shown in Figure 1. Firefly luciferase can produce light in the presence of ATP, luciferin, oxygen and Mg²⁺. The amount of light produced is proportional to the amount of ATP in a sample and therefore ATP can be quantified by measuring the light produced through this reaction using a luminometer, showing a reading of Relative Light Units (RLUs). This is well known as the ATP method. In order to detect AMP simultaneously and maintain the light production, ATP was regenerated from AMP using pyruvate orthophosphate dikinase reactions (PPDK) in the presence of phosphoenol pyruvate, inorganic pyrophosphate (PPi) and Mg²⁺ (Figure 1). Furthermore, ADP is converted to ATP by pyruvate kinase (PK, Figure 1). This allows the test to detect and quantify total adenylate and dramatically increases the signal available to the test.

DISCUSSION OF THE VALIDATION STUDY (1)

ATP tests are commonly used for an assessment of hygienic conditions in food industry. It should be noted that adenylate swabbing assays including ATP and the A3 test are not for microorganism detection but for cleaning verification because adenylates are not specific to microorganisms as shown in Table 3 and 4. However, monitoring the surface after cleaning is effective for preventing foodborne illness for the following reasons. First, food residues on surfaces are the source of nutrients for microorganisms. Second, organic matter can interfere with the antimicrobial activity of disinfectants (5) and decrease sanitation efficiency. Moreover, cleaning verification also seems to be effective for preventing food allergen cross-contact that can occur via the transfer of allergens in the same facility or on the same processing line for the allergen-containing and nonallergen-containing foods or ingredients.

A validation study of a conventional ATP monitoring test on stainless steel surfaces has been reported (3). Recently, the LuciPac A3 Surface Hygiene Monitoring System that can detect ATP+ADP+AMP (A3) has been developed and it shows more advanced sensitivity to determine food/organic debris compared to the conventional ATP tests (2). However, there is no report about the method validation for A3 assay. Here we report the validation study of the LuciPac A3 Surface Hygiene Monitoring System under the specific guidelines of the AOAC Research Institute *Performance Tested Method*^{5M} program.

Firstly, pure analyte assays were performed to determine the LODs of ATP, ADP and AMP. The results in the method developer laboratory and the independent laboratory were consistent (Table 2). The LODs were around 10 RLU. According to the regression analyses, LODs can be expressed as ca. 2.5 fmol/assay on a molecular basis. RSD_r values <20% were achieved at or above 2.5 fmol, though RSD_r values of analyte-free water and 1.0 fmol adenylate were 20-60% (Table 1). This study also demonstrated good linearity of detection sensitivity $[R^2 > 0.9862]$.

In order to determine the feasibility of detecting food matrix residues on stainless steel surfaces, the surface was treated with dilutions of 5 food matrices, i.e. raw poultry (raw chicken breast), ready to eat meat product (sliced deli ham), fresh produce and Juice (orange juice), heat processed milk and dairy (yogurt) and chocolate/bakery products (apple pie). All matrices showed sufficient reactivity as reported previously and a response that varied with dilution (Table 3). Method Developer Studies demonstrated that pure analyte solutions yielded <20% RSD_r (Table 1), but RSD_r values of each matrix solution for swabbing assays were <30%. Independent laboratory Studies demonstrated that RSD^r values of each matrix solution for swabbing assays were <26.7% (orange juice) and <42.5% (ham, Table 3). The higher variations of matrixes were likely caused by additional factor, i.e. swabbing technique. Additionally, regarding insoluble food samples, solid and liquid are separated soon even after careful homogenization. This unavoidable heterogeneity may cause variability in the amount of matrix applied onto the plates. It should also be considered that all cotton swabs may not be able to pick up the dried solid particles completely. Consistent swabbing technique is important to minimize the variability. Swabbing an object thoroughly using the entire surface of the swab with rotation is ideal. Ideally the swab should be slightly bent when exerting appropriate pressing force.

Three pure cultures of microorganisms, a Gram-negative bacterium (*C. sakazakii*), a Gram-positive bacterium (*L. acidophilus*), and a yeast species (*S. cerevisiae*) were also tested using stainless steel surfaces. As is the case with food matrices, RLU responses to the organism concentration were observed (Table 4). RSD_r values of each microbial solution for swabbing assays (10-35%) were also comparable to the food matrix study. Consequently, validation study using stainless steel surface demonstrated that the LuciPac A3 Surface Hygiene Monitoring System provides rapid and precise food/organic debris determination. Disinfectants are used in cleaning to kill microorganisms, and these chemicals may be left on the surface. According to our previous study, sodium hypochlorite (500 ppm), ethanol (80%) and quaternary ammonium (benzalkonium chloride, 0.1%) inhibit the A3 assays to some extent (ca. 10% inhibition) when 10 µL of disinfectants were added to the moistened swab (2). In this study, inhibition effects were evaluated using the stainless steel surface model to closely mimic industrial cleaning practices (Table 5 and 6). Since ethanol can be completely evaporated, another sanitizer for food processing, peracetic acid (6%), was tested instead in this study. Similar to our previous result, sodium hypochlorite did not affect the result significantly under these conditions. Quaternary ammonium inhibited 25-30% of the ATP signal. Contrary to our expectations, peracetic acid amplified the RLU output. Acid compounds generally reduce RLU values due to lowering pH of the reaction mixture from the optimum. The reason of the enhancement by peracetic acid on stainless steel is unclear. The peracetic acid that was used in this study is composed of hydrogen peroxide, acetic acid, buffer, chelator and stabilizer based on the manufacturer's information. Peracetic acid (boiling point: 105°C) and acetic acid (boiling point: 118°C) seem to have been completely evaporated and other components might enhance the measurement values. As described above, the LuciPac A3 Surface hygiene monitoring system is intended for cleaning verification. Moreover, Table 5 and 6 indicate that it may be affected by chemical agents. Therefore, the A3 test is recommended to be used after rinsing away sanitizing agents for accurate assessment.

Table 1. Method developer and independent laboratory pure analyte results using LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester PD-30 system. (A) Adenosine triphosphate (ATP), (B) Adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and (C) Adenosine monophosphate (AMP) (1)

B.

A.

C.

Table 2. Estimation of limit of detection (LOD) for adenosine triphosphate (ATP), adenosine diphosphate (ADP), and (C) adenosine monophosphate (AMP)from the method developer and independent laboratory data of pure analytes using LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester PD-30 system. (1)

a The mean analytical value of the known negative matrix (Mean RLU for 0 fmol/assay in Table 1).

b The intercept of the plots of standard deviation vs. mean LuciPac A3 Surface responses (Figure 3).

c The slope of the plots of standard deviation vs. mean LuciPac A3 Surface responses (Figure 3).

 d Relative Light Unit. Each LOD (RLU) were calcurated using the formula: (\overline{X}_o + 3.3 x *s _b*)/(1–1.65 *m*)

e Each LOD (fmol/assay) was calculated by LOD (RLU) using the linearity curves in Figure 2 (Method developer) and 4 (Independent laboratory).

Method developer study.

b Independent laboratory study.

c Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

^d Relative Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

e Excluded from data analysis based on Grubbs' test.

Table 4. Replicate Relative Light Unit (RLU), mean RLU, s^r and RSD^r of the LuciPac A3 Surface method determined with various

a Each value was obtained by deviding the colony forming unit of each undiluted suspention by dilution factors.

The actual amount of organism added to the coupon was 250 μL.

b Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

^c Relative Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

d Excluded from data analysis based on Grubbs' test.

Table 5. Replicate Relative Light Unit (RLU) and mean RLU for the effect of common sanitizers on the LuciPac A3 Surface method (1)

a Adenosine triphosphate

Table 6. Effect of common sanitizers on the LuciPac A3 Surface method (1)

a Relative Light Unit

b Adenosine triphosphate

c A negative percent inhibition correlated to an increase in signal. Calculated using mean RLU and the following equation: Inhibition (%) = $\{1 - [(SA-S)/(CA-C)]\} \times 100$.

^d C = Signal from the control (analyte-free water) on the control surface (analyte-free water dried onto the stainless steel surface).

e S = Signal from the control (analyte-free water) on the disinfectant surface (disinfectant dried onto the stainless steel surface).

f CA = Signal from ATP on the control surface (analyte-free water and ATP dried onto the stainless steel surface).

g SA = Signal from ATP on the disinfectant surface (disinfectant and ATP dried onto the stainless steel surface).

DISCUSSION OF THE MODIFICATION APPROVED NOVEMBER 2019 (7)

In the first validation study for the LuciPac A3/the Lumitester PD-30 Hygiene Monitoring System for the detection of ATP, ADP, and AMP from stainless steel surfaces, pure analyte solutions, detection of food residues and microbial residues on stainless steel surfaces, interference by disinfectants, selectivity of the method response, instrument variation, lot-to-lot consistency, and accelerated stability were evaluated. In this modification validation study for the new instruments, Lumitester Smart, pure analyte study and instrument variation were carried out in order to evaluate whether the ability of Lumitester Smart to detect pure ATP, ADP, and AMP was comparable with that of Lumitester PD-30. Detection of food residues and microbial residues on stainless steel surfaces, interference by disinfectants, selectivity of the method response, instrument variation, lot-to-lot consistency, and accelerated stability are accordingly ensured by the previous validation data because these factors depend on the performances of the swab.

The LODs for ATP, ADP, and AMP were 1.6, 3.5, and 3.0 fmol/assay, respectively (Table 2). Pure ATP, ADP, and AMP were detected by the LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester Smart system with good linearity (R² > 0.9866) (Figure 2), and repeatability precision (RSD_r: 9.6-18.9 % for 1-100 fmol ATP/assay, 6.4-16.5 % for 2.5-100 fmol ADP/assay, 6.1-15.5 % for 2.5-100 fmol AMP/assay) (Table 1). In our previous report of pure analyte studies using LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester PD-30 system (AOAC *Performance Tested Method*SM 051901), the LODs for ATP, ADP, and AMP were 3.0-3.3, 0.9-2.9, 1.8-2.5 fmol/assay, respectively. The repeatability precision (RSDr) of the measurements were 4.8-16.8 % for 2.5-100 fmol ATP assay, 4.6-23.3 % for 1-100 fmol ADP/assay, and 4.1-24.2 % for 1-100 fmol AMP assay. The linearity (R^2) of the measures were 0.9862 or higher.

In the instrument variation studies, no significant difference could be found at any ATP concentration among the three Lumitester Smart (Table 3). These results indicated that the performance of LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester Smart system to detect pure ATP, ADP, and AMP was comparable with that of LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester PD-30 system.

Table 1. Pure analyte results using LuciPac A3 Surface/Lumitester Smart system. (A) Adenosine triphosphate (ATP), (B) Adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and (C) Adenosine monophosphate (AMP) (7)

C

*^a*Relative Light Unit. Ten replicates were tested at each concentration.

b Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

*^c*Relative Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

d Amounts of the adenylate were converted from the mean RLU values using the linearity curves in Figure 2.

A

B

C

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*^a*The mean analytical value of the known negative matrix (Mean RLU for 0 fmol/assay in Table 1).

*^b*The intercept of the plots of standard deviation vs. mean LuciPac A3 Surface responses (Figure 3).

*^c*The slope of the plots of standard deviation vs. mean LuciPac A3 Surface responses (Figure 3).

 d Relative Light Unit. Each LOD (RLU) were calcurated using the formula: $(\bar{X}_0 + 3.3 \times s_b)/(1 - 1.65 \, m)$.

*^e*Each LOD (fmol/assay) was calculated by LOD (RLU) using the linearity curves in Figure 2.

Table 3. Results of Instrument variation study

*^a*Adenosine triphosphate.

*b***Standard Deviation of Repeatability.**

*^c*Relative Standard Deviation of Repeatability.

*^d*Serial No. 1: 1911053130070S, 2: 1849053130043S, 3: 1902053130100S.

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