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Jelena,

To follow up to our discussions regarding the QC performed with the Caltest E. coli analysis, I wanted to summarize what Caltest has been doing and what they have begun doing since August 2012.

Prior to August 2012:

On a batch basis:

Blk – lab blank

+/+ positive control for E. coli on an inoculated sample

+/- negative control for E. coli on an inoculated sample

With every new media lot:

-/- negative control for a non-coliform culture

Another issue we discussed were the positive/negative gram controls that were referenced in the SOP attached to the ESJWQC QAPP. Turns out that the SOP was outdated and may have incorrectly referenced QC procedures for Enterococcus by Enterolert. Caltest has a more recent SOP for SM 9223B dated August 2011 that does not have this reference; we plan to update our QAPP in October with some minor revisions and will include the updated SOP.

Also, Caltest pointed out that the SM 9223B only requires the +/-, +/+ and -/- for new media lots purchased (about 3-4 times a year in Caltest's case). They have been performing these QC procedures on a lab batch basis EXCEPT for the negative, non-coliform control (-/-) which has only been done on new media lots.

As of August 2012, Caltest has increased their level of QC to the following:

On a batch basis and new media lot basis:

Blk – Sterility blank (non-inoculated)

+/+ positive control (inoculated w/ E. coli culture)

+/- positive control (inoculated w/ Total Coliform culture)

-/- negative control (inoculated w/ non-Coliform culture)

I've attached a bench sheet from August as an example of their recording of their QC results.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Melissa

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