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MAST® ASSURE ANTISERUM LEGIONELLA O-GROUPING

Intended Use
Liquid stable antisera for the determination of O-serogroups of *Legionella.*

FOR IN VITRO DIAGNOSTIC USE ONLY

Contents
See pack label.

Formulation
MAST® ASSURE ANTISERUM are prepared from rabbits hyperimmunised with standard strains of killed organisms possessing known serotypes or group specific antigens and contain 0.085% sodium azide as preservative.

Stability and storage
Store unopened at 2 to 8°C until the expiry date shown on the pack label. Once opened, MAST® ASSURE ANTISERUM should be stored at 2 to 8°C and may be used until the expiry date given on the label.
Do not freeze reagents.

Warnings and precautions
For *in vitro* diagnostic use only. Observe approved biohazard precautions and aseptic techniques. To be used only by adequately trained and qualified laboratory personnel. Sterilise all biohazard waste before disposal. Sodium azide preservative may be toxic if ingested and may react with lead and copper plumbing to form highly explosive salts. Always dispose of by flushing to drain with plenty of water. Refer to Product Safety Data sheet.

Materials required but not provided
Standard microbiological supplies and equipment such as loops, applicator sticks, clean glass microscope slides or glass test tubes swabs, MAST® culture media, incinerators and incubators, etc., as well as reagents and additives such as sterile 0.85% saline solution.

Procedure
1. Prepare a dense cell suspension of the organism in sterile 0.85% saline solution (saline) and heat it to 100°C for 60 minutes or autoclave at 121°C for 15 minutes. Organisms should be taken from fresh cultures grown on MAST® BCYE Agar DM258 containing appropriate supplements, or similar a medium.
2. Partition a carefully cleaned microscope slide using a chinagraph pencil and place a drop of the required antiserum into each test section and a drop of saline into the control section.
3. Place a loopful of the antigen suspension into the vicinity of the antiserum or saline.
4. Mix the reagents by tilting the slide back and forth for 60 seconds while viewing it under indirect light against a dark background.
5. Distinct clumping or agglutination within this period, without clumping in the saline control (auto-agglutination), should be regarded as a positive result. Weak agglutination should be recorded as negative.

Interpretation of results
Isolates producing a distinct positive reaction with an antiserum are assumed to be a *Legionella* from the O-group or *Legionella* species specified by the antiserum. If a reaction is observed with two or more antisera the antigen suspension prepared from the isolate should be heat treated again, as described above before retesting.

If no agglutination is observed or slight agglutination after 60 seconds the organism should be regarded as negative for the group antigen specified by the antiserum.

Limitations of use
Only cultures of organisms identified as *Legionella* by morphological and biochemical features should be serotyped with this product.
The antisera are intended for use in rapid slide agglutination tests only.

Quality control
It is recommended that quality control should be performed with at least one organism to demonstrate a positive reaction and at least one organism to demonstrate a negative reaction. Do not use the product if the reactions with the control organisms are incorrect. Check for signs of deterioration. Do not use reagents if they are contaminated or cloudy.

References
Bibliography available on request.

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