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Rev	Description of Change	Author	Date
0	Initial Release	Tim George	1/12/14

1.0 Scope:

- 1.1 This procedure describes a method for detecting the presence of microbial growth within water-based slurries.

2.0 Purpose:

- 2.1 This is an easy test to monitor the presence/absence of harmful bacteria growth, which can degrade the stability of slurries. Unusual or unpleasant odors are also evidence of bacteria growth.

3.0 Hazard and Safety:

- 3.1 Consult the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for required handling procedures and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required.

4.0 Equipment:

- 4.1 Culture slide, such as MCE Combi dip slide or equivalent.
- 4.2 Eye dropper (optional).
- 4.3 50 ml tubes.
- 4.4 50 ml beaker or vial.
- 4.5 Biocides.

5.0 Procedure:

- 5.1 Obtain sample of binder extracted from slurry per section 7.13.
- 5.2 Unscrew the cap and withdraw the cap and slide from the vial. Be careful not to touch the agar coated surface of the slide.
- 5.3 Cover the agar surface of the slide with test binder by either dipping it into the binder for a minimum of three seconds or by using an eye dropper.
- 5.4 Allow excess fluid to drain from the slide.
- 5.5 Screw the cap back on lightly and then back it off one half turn. Incubate the vial in an upright position at 77° to 86° F (25° to 30° C) for 24 to 48 hours.
- 5.6 Compare the results against the Colony Density Chart provided by the manufacturer of the slide.



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5.7 Be sure to keep accurate records, in chronological order, for each slurry.

6.0 Results:

- 6.1 If bacteria growth is detected, contact supplier for recommendations to eliminate bacteria, including use of biocides.
- 6.2 Finding the cause of contamination must be done to prevent reoccurrence of the problem. Check any container that may have either direct or indirect contact with the slurry.

7.0 References:

- 7.1 None.