

Rapid Cronobacter Sakazakii Testing

Cronobacter sakazakii, an opportunistic pathogenic microorganism, can cause serious illness in infants and is often associated with powdered infant formulas, milk powders and their constituents. Ingredients such as skimmed milk powder, starch and lecithin can become contaminated by environmental contaminants after production or during packaging.

Cronobacter sakazakii infections can cause very severe symptoms in newborns, including necrotising enterocolitis, meningitis and septicaemia and are sometimes fatal. The number of cells required to cause an infection is unknown, so a highly specific and sensitive test is required.



Regulation

With these serious infections associated with *C. sakazakii*, EU regulation has been put in place where EC No. 1441/2007 sets out *Cronobacter* spp. 'absence in 10g' for infant formula during its shelf life. Furthermore Codex alimentarius CAC/RCP 66 Code of hygienic practice for powdered formulae for infants and young children sets out guidelines for monitoring programmes for *Salmonella* and *Cronobacter* spp. in infant formula preparation units.

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Rapid Test

Eurofins Wolverhampton has combined the use of immunological and real-time PCR technologies to provide a highly specific and sensitive rapid test that takes less than 24 hours to provide a result. The test can pool up to 5 samples, which means that product release is quicker and the product is on the shelves faster.

The test uses Pathatrix technology to selectively concentrate the organisms and is combined with PCR detection of DNA specific to *Cronobacter sakazakii*, ensuring confidence in the results.

Advantages

The advantages of the Eurofins *Cronobacter sakazakii* rapid test are:

- Negative results in 24 hours allowing positive release
- Combined immuno technology and DNA gives high level of confidence in results
- Extensively validated for use in milk powder, powdered infant formula and constituents.
- Presumptive positive samples can be isolated from the Pathatrix bead, speeding up release time
- Pooling of samples for screening reduces cost per test

No one understands **food analysis** better than Eurofins

