

ALKEN-MURRAY CORPORATION	TITLE: HEKTOEN ENTERIC (HE) AGAR PREPARATION PROCEDURE	NO. QC-15
MICROBIOLOGICAL DIVISION	QUALITY CONTROL	REV: 2
		PAGE 1 OF 2

ALKEN-MURRAY CORPORATION

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QUALITY CONTROL METHOD -15

Preparation of Hektoen Enteric (HE) Agar

Description:

This quality control procedure is designed to verify that HE agar is obtained and stored properly. HE agar is a medium designed for isolation and recovery of fecal specimens belonging to the *Enterbacteriaceae* family, especially *Salmonella* and *Shigella* in QC-3. It can differentiate between bacteria that ferment lactose and those that don't. This procedure should be performed by a trained laboratory technician.

Equipment:

Erlenmeyer flask with screw cap (double the volume of media beign prepared)
Heated stirrer plate
Screw cap test tubes
Autoclave
Steri-Wrap II (green)
Rapid-Flo gauze milk filter disk

Ingredients:

HE (Weber #3082-00)

Procedure:

1. Purchase HE Agar from Weber Scientific.
2. Place a label on package with expiration date marked in bold RED letters
3. Store agar in the refrigerator, in the dark, until used.
4. Prepare agar using general procedure outlined in QC-11, or follow label directions.
5. Discard agar after its expiration date.

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		PAGE 2 OF 2

Interpreting Results

Acid produced from fermenting lactose imparts a yellow-orange color to the medium due to the presence of a pH indicator. Non-lactose fermenters do not significantly change the color of the medium. HE agar can also detect the production of hydrogen sulfide gas, which turns parts of the medium black. This agar is used in laboratory procedure QC-3. Record the results in the appropriate QC database log.