



SPECIALIST MICROBIOLOGY

The Specialist Micro department is a dedicated team of technical experts able to provide a variety of bespoke microbiology services as part of a genuine 'One-stop Shop' solution. The team carries out a wide range of bespoke trials including challenge tests, validation projects, and investigative microbiology studies. If the project you have in mind doesn't fit neatly into an existing ALS service or it requires that extra level of attention and care, then we encourage you to get in touch with us so we can discuss your needs and exactly how we can best help you move forward.



▶ **Salmonella Check & Trace® Serology**

If you have a positive *Salmonella* result, we can arrange for a retained isolate to be sent to the Specialist Micro Department for further analysis. This is a UKAS accredited, AOAC-RI and OIE certified rapid genetic test and is offered with a choice of turnaround times dependent on your requirements.

▶ **Challenge Test Studies**

Practical studies performed to assess the ability of a product to sustain the growth of target micro-organisms across the intended shelf life. These studies can be used to challenge new formulations, extend the shelf life of products and demonstrate compliance with regulations such as EC 2073/2005. A detailed project proposal custom made to each trial describes the testing schedule, ensuring that the client has a clear picture of all aspects of the trial to be carried out. At the completion of a project, a thorough report is produced for a deep dive into the details of the trial, complete with an executive summary that provides a succinct summary of the results at a glance.

▶ **Listeria strain typing**

Using MALDI-TOF we are able to get resolution beyond species for *Listeria* isolates, making this testing an excellent tool in source tracking and outbreak investigation. This service is faster and more economical than traditional Ribotyping, providing results in as little as 5 days.

▶ **Validations**

We can provide testing and support for numerous different validations and verifications such as those for disinfectants, wash steps, cooking processes and validating new equipment. These can be helpful in implementing new procedures, verifying current processes and root cause investigations in crisis management.

▶ **E.coli O157 Detection by PCR**

A premium UKAS accredited detection test for one of the most notorious food pathogens. The sensitivity of PCR technology, combined with the rapid turnaround time of this test sets it apart from other *E.coli* O157 tests.

▶ **Bacterial, Yeast or Mould identification services**

We utilise a broad selection of molecular, biochemical and traditional techniques to identify practically any organism including filamentous fungus isolates which come with a detailed report to assist with elimination and future proofing your samples.

▶ **Probiotics**

We can test a variety of probiotic organisms from food samples, powders, capsules and liquids to provide our clients with an enumeration result of the probiotics present in their samples and offer subsequent identification of species of organisms present.

