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Ref No: OTEX LD04

F.A.O. Mr D Cardis
Date 21 06 2005

Technical Report

In recent studies I examined a series of microfibre mops which had either been treated by a process of Thermal disinfection or alternatively by an OTEX based system. These studies involved the measurement of the anti microbial performance of both treatments.

An interesting aspect of our overall data is that there appears to be the possibility of Clostridium difficile surviving the standard conditions for thermal disinfection (71°C for 3 mins). I cite an instance wherein a mop returned a count of 300 Clostridium difficile per gram after thermal disinfection.

If one considers it, this result translates to at least 150,000 C.diff spores or cells per mop then I consider a problem exists of significant proportion. Clearly there is the potential for re-infection of the environment. Additionally there is the potential for cyclic selection of heat resistant members of the C.diff population if even a small proportion of the target population survive.

I think it would be interesting to pursue this particular piece of string a little further.

Yours Sincerely

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D.O'Connor B.Sc. Ci.Biol M.I.F.S.T.

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Date 29 04 2005

PRE TREATMENT MICROBIOLOGICAL STATUS OF MICRO FIBRE MOPS AND CLOTHS

TEST	SOILED MOP	SOILED BLUE CLOTH	SOILED RED CLOTH
TVC cfu cm2	9.30E+14	5.20E+13	4.60E+12
Enterobacteriaceae cfu cm2	6.20E+13	9.10E+10	8.40E+09
E.coli cfu cm2	5.10E+07	1.00E+07	3.20E+07
Pseudomonas cfu cm2	6.80E+13	8.30E+12	9.20E+12
S.aureus cfu cm2	9.70E+06	4.50E+09	6.10E+11
Total Streptococci cfu cm2	4.00E+11	7.00E+12	1.30E+13
Listeria cfu cm2	8.20E+04	700	6.20E+04
Clostridial species cfu cm2	7.10E+12	6.20E+09	9.30E+08
Salmonella cfu cm2	4.10E+03	2.00E+02	1.30E+03

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