



Your Laundry & Infection Control Partner

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***Hospital Microfibre Bacteriological Monitoring Visit
- Queens Hospital, Romford, Essex.***

Dear Sarah

Please find attached the microbiological results following the recent visit to **Queens Hospital, Romford** on 23rd September 2008. Samples were taken pre/post laundering to evaluate the effectiveness of OTEX disinfection process. Individual microfibre mops were randomly selected before and after processing with OTEX. All samples were handled in an aseptic manner and analysed by an independent laboratory, which is UKAS accredited, Microsearch Laboratories Ltd.

The results demonstrate the effectiveness of the disinfection of the OTEX process on microfibre cloths and mops. Whilst *C.difficile* was detected in the pre laundered items no clostridium species was detected in any of the processed mops.

At the time of the site visit the following observations were made:

- Overloading of the washing machines was witnessed; this could affect both the wash quality and disinfection process and ultimately affect the mechanical condition of the machines. Advice was given to staff operating the equipment at the time of the site visit.
- A number of batches failed the OTEX validation. Staff were unaware of the implications of a fail and overloading may be a key factor. Staff were advised that the failed wash should be reprocessed.
- There was evidence to suggest that other chemicals including powders had been manually dispensed within the soap hopper. Photographs clearly show a build up of residual chemical. No additional chemicals are needed and staff should be made aware of this situation. It is possible that the machines may be being used for personal laundry, which brings into question the security of the laundry. This needs to be reviewed.
- Water pressure on the left hand washing machine (mc3) was found to be extremely poor, resulting in an additional 10minutes processing time for the OTEX wash cycle. This needs addressing as soon as possible.
- Chemical dosing levels need to be reviewed. Presence of excess foam after the final rinse was noted.
- Refresher training is recommended.

Comparison of the OTEX process and thermal disinfection cycle shows a saving of 15 minutes per wash cycle with OTEX. No hot water is employed and it is estimated that a saving in the region of 85% electricity is being incurred.

I trust this meets with your requirements. Should you require any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact Lara Wade (Account Manager) or Jackie Hook (Chemist) on Halifax (01422) 822282.

Table 1: Microsearch Laboratories Ltd - Microbiological Analysis:

Sample Description	Lab Ref	Date	Colony Forming Units / ml (CFU/ml)							
			TVC	Ecoli	Salmonella	S.aureus	C.diff	MRSA	Yeasts	Moulds
Microfibre Mop Before OTEX	293	25 Sept 08	8.20E+08	TNTC	Pos	7.10E+07	17800	43900	TNTC	TNTC
Microfibre Mop After OTEX	295		200	<1	NEG	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Microfibre Mop Before OTEX	294		9.10E+08	TNTC	NEG	2.40E+06	4800	93	TNTC	TNTC
Microfibre Mop After OTEX	296		50	<1	NEG	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1

Table 2: Dipslide Results - JLA sampled 23rd September 08

Sample Description	TVC Before OTEX	TVC After OTEX
Microfibre Mop	Slight Growth	No Growth
Microfibre Mop	Heavy Growth	<Very Slight Growth (1 CFU/dipslide)
Microfibre Mop	Moderate Growth	No Growth
Microfibre Mop	Moderate Growth	No Growth

**Legend: TVC = Total Viable Count < = Less than
NEG = Negative**

**TNTC = Too Numerous To Count
CFU – Colony Forming Units**

Pos = Positive

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS:



Evidence of powder/chemical being dosed via soap hopper on machine.