Disposable adult absorbent (incontinence) products — Specifications
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Requests for permission to reproduce this document should be addressed to

The Executive Director
Uganda National Bureau of Standards
P.O. Box 6329
Kampala
Uganda
Tel: +256 417 333 250/1/2
Fax: +256 414 286 123
E-mail: info@unbs.go.ug
Web: www.unbs.go.ug
Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Normative references</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Terms and definitions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Requirements</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Absorbent filler</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Top Sheet (the layer which contacts adult’s skin)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Back sheet</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.4</td>
<td>Fastening device (closure system)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.5</td>
<td>Breathability</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Key performance requirements</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Microbiological requirements</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Packaging and marking</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Packaging</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Marking</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Proof of compliance</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Acceptance criteria</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annex A (normative) Rate of absorption and rewet test

A.1 Scope and Purpose: | 9 |
A.2 Principle | 9 |
A.3 Apparatus and materials | 9 |
A.4 Saline solution | 9 |
A.5 Saline dosage | 9 |
A.7 Calculation of results | 11 |

Annex B (normative) Test Method for Retention Capacity

A.1 EQUIPMENT | 12 |
A.2 PROCEDURE | 12 |
A.3 CALCULATIONS | 12 |

Annex C (normative) Microbiological examination

C.1 Apparatus and equipment | 13 |
C.2 Media and reagents | 13 |
C.2.1 General | 13 |
C.2.2 Bacteriological peptone | 13 |
C.2.3 Plate count agar | 13 |
C.2.4 Neutral red-bile salt peptone glucose medium | 13 |
C.2.5 Fluid soybean-casein digest medium | 13 |
C.2.6 Centrimide agar medium | 14 |
C.2.7 Pseudomonas agar medium for detection of fluorescein | 14 |
C.2.8 Pseudomonas agar medium for detection of pyocyanin | 15 |
C.3 Preparation of Test Suspension | 15 |
C.4 Procedure | 15 |
C.4.1 Total viable bacterial count | 15 |
C.4.2 Examination for the presence of Enterobacteriaceae | 15 |
C.4.3 Examination for the presence of Staphylococcus aureus | 15 |
C.4.4 Examination for the presence of Pseudomonas aeruginosa | 15 |
Foreword

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) is a parastatal under the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives established under Cap 327, of the Laws of Uganda, as amended. UNBS is mandated to coordinate the elaboration of standards and is

(a) a member of International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and

(b) a contact point for the WHO/FAO Codex Alimentarius Commission on Food Standards, and

(c) the National Enquiry Point on TBT Agreement of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The work of preparing Uganda Standards is carried out through Technical Committees. A Technical Committee is established to deliberate on standards in a given field or area and consists of key stakeholders including government, academia, consumer groups, private sector and other interested parties.

Draft Uganda Standards adopted by the Technical Committee are widely circulated to stakeholders and the general public for comments. The committee reviews the comments before recommending the draft standards for approval and declaration as Uganda Standards by the National Standards Council.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 7, Textile, Leather, Paper and Related Products, Subcommittee SC 1, Textile and Related products
Disposable adult absorbent (incontinence) products—Specifications

1 Scope

This draft Uganda Standard specifies requirements and test methods for disposable adult absorbent products for managing incontinence including adult diapers, adult briefs, adult underpads (inserted in pants) and others.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

US ISO 139, Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing

US ISO 3071, Textiles — Determination of pH of aqueous extract

US ISO 4833-2, Microbiology of the food chain – Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms – Part 2: Colony count at 30 °C by the surface plating technique

US ISO 6888-2, Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of coagulase-positive staphylococci (Staphylococcus aureus and other species) — Part 2: Technique using rabbit plasma fibrinogen agar medium

US ISO 7218, Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — General requirements and guidance for microbiological examinations (2nd Edition)


3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions shall apply

3.1 Incontinence products

Hygienic products specifically developed to help manage bladder or bowel control problems with the capability to absorb urine and prevent stool and fluid from leaking out

3.2 Absorbent filler material

The material at the core of the diaper that absorbs fluids

3.3 Top sheet run-off

The unabsorbed volume of test solution while running across the surface of inclined specimen
3.4 Rewet
The mass of test solution which returns to surface under specific pressure after a certain amount of that being absorbed by the specimen

3.5 Leakage
The mass of test solution which penetrates the leak-proof carrier film under specific pressure after a certain amount of that being absorbed by specimen

3.6 Rate of Absorbency (ROA)
Time required to fully absorb test fluid into the test product. A specified quantity of simulated urine is discharged at a prescribed rate under specified conditions onto a test specimen of an absorbent article with a nonwoven cover. The time taken for the entire liquid dose to penetrate the nonwoven is measured.

3.7 Retention Capacity
A measure of a product’s capacity to hold fluid without leaking and rewetting the skin.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:
— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

4 Requirements

4.1 Materials
All materials used for making absorbent products shall not harm the skin in contact. None of the components in the products, including additives, should be listed in any Regulatory Agency as being “unsafe”

4.1.1 Absorbent filler
a) it shall have fine ventilative property that keeps the skin dry and comfortable;

b) it shall be clean, free from harmful foreign materials, lumps, splits, holes and protruding points when visually examined; and

c) it shall be arranged in a manner that will draw in and trap all moisture rapidly and efficiently and keeps it away from the adult’s skin.

4.1.2 Top Sheet (the layer which contacts adult’s skin)

a) shall be of material that helps absorption, and shall have no harmful effect; and

b) shall cover the absorbent filler completely and prevent the filler from reaching the adult’s skin or clothes under normal handling.

4.1.3 Back sheet
There shall be an outer cover to prevent direct contact of the absorbent filler with the adult’s clothing and to prevent liquid leakage out of the absorbent product.

4.1.4 Fastening device (closure system)
There shall be a suitable device for fastening the absorbent products for secure use. The closure system regardless of how its functionality is achieved should allow for multiple fastening and unfastening. This promotes better fit and allows for easy check of wetness without having to dispose off and replace unsoiled product.
4.1.5 Breathability

The product should be breathable and comfortable to wear. There should be a minimum air flow sufficient to release trapped body heat or gaseous body perspiration in the pelvic region.

4.2 Key performance requirements

Adult absorbent products shall comply with the performance requirements given in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the methods specified therein.

Table 1 — Characteristics of disposable adult absorbent products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>All size categories</th>
<th>Test methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate of absorption, s, (max)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Annex A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewet under load, g, (max)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Annex A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention capacity (min)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absorptive capacity (min)</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>US ISO 11948-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>6 – 8.5</td>
<td>US ISO 3071</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Microbiological requirements

a) the total viable bacterial count, when determined in accordance with Annex C shall not exceed 1000 per gram of the absorbent product; and

b) when tested, the absorbent product shall be free from Enterobacteriaceae, Staphylococcus aureus, and Pseudomonas aeruginosa respectively.

5 Packaging and marking

5.1 Packaging

Disposable adult absorbent products shall be packed in a suitable waterproof package that shall protect them from any form of contamination and damage. Packaging for shipment shall be in accordance with the manufacturer’s standard practice and in a manner readily accepted by the market. Within the shipping carton, units shall be packed in manner designed to minimize damage during shipment due to rough or improper handling.

5.2 Marking

On both the primary and secondary packages, the disposable adult absorbent product packs shall be marked with legible and indelible pre-printed marking or a securely affixed and durable label bearing the following information:

a) name of products;

b) name and address of the manufacturer and/or importer/distributor (if applicable);

c) number of pieces in the pack;

d) size category and dimensions;

e) instruction for use, storage and disposal;
f) date of manufacture and expiry;

g) batch/ lot number; and

h) country of origin.

6 Sampling

6.1 Lot

In any consignment, all packages of the adult absorbent product belonging to one batch of manufacture or supply shall constitute a lot.

6.2 Scale of sampling

6.2.1 Samples shall be tested from each lot ascertaining its conformity to the requirements of this specification.

6.2.2 The number of packages to be selected from a lot shall be in accordance with Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of packages in a lot</th>
<th>Number of packages to be selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 250</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>251-500</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501-1000</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001-2500</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2501-5000</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5001 and above</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.2.3 The bulk packages and packages shall be selected at random

6.3 Number of tests

6.3.1 Each package selected as per table 2 shall be inspected for packaging and marking requirements

6.3.2 Sanitary towels selected as per table 2 shall be examined for requirements stipulated in clause 4 and 5

7 Proof of compliance

The manufacturer or the supplier shall bear the burden of proof of compliance with this specification

8 Acceptance criteria

Product acceptance shall be based on the finding that all the required test results meet or exceed the specified target values.
Annex A
(normative)

Rate of absorption and rewet test

A.1 Scope and Purpose:

a) To measure the ability of an absorbent product to accept and retain synthetic urine (saline solution) under simulated in-use conditions of load and pressure.

b) To determine the amount of time required for an absorbent article to absorb a fixed quantity of a test solution

A.2 Principle

The method measures the ability of the absorbent products to accept and retain 0.9% saline solution under simulated in-use conditions of load and pressure.

A.3 Apparatus and materials

a) A rigid cover plate with a weight as shown below. Dimensions of the plate 200 mm x 70 mm. Inner diameter of cylinder 40 mm, total weight: 6300 g (plate 605.3 g, weight 5694.7 g) representing a pressure of 4.41 kPa (0.64 psi) for all sizes;

b) A tray;

c) Filter paper; Medium-speed qualitative chemical analysis filter paper; (AFI Grade 950 or Schleicher & Schuell Grade 597, Whatman Grade 2, Camlab grade 113) having a diameter of or approximately 40 mm and conditioned together with the test samples as above;

d) A graduated cylinder (1 ml graduation);

e) A stopwatch;

f) A ruler (at least 2 cm longer as absorbent core of the sample, 1 mm graduation); and

g) A pen.

A.4 Saline solution

Add 9 g sodium chloride, and 1 g of blue dye into 200 mL distilled water at ambient temperature after which the solution is made up to 1 Liter. The pH shall be between 6.2 – 6.7. When not within this range, adjust by using 0.1 mol/L sodium hydroxide solution or acetic acid as relevant. The temperature of the solution shall be 37 °C ± 2 °C, and shall be maintained in a water bath during testing.

A.5 Saline dosage

Measure out the volume of saline solution for each of the products being tested as follows:
a) adult disposable diaper (brief) of size: Medium to XX-Large, Single dose of 200 ml

b) adult disposable diaper (brief) of size: Small, Single dose of 100 ml

c) all sizes of adult disposable under-pads/ underpants: Single dose of 100 ml

A.6 Sample preparation and Set-up

a) conditioning: Bring samples to moisture equilibrium in the standard atmosphere for testing nonwovens in accordance with US ISO 139. Equilibrium is considered to have been reached when the increase in mass of the specimen in successive weighings made at intervals of not less than 2 hours does not exceed 0.25 % of the mass of the specimen;

b) take 5 test specimens randomly from the test samples;

c) weigh a stack of dry filter paper and record as weight W1. The stack should have a dry weight of about 10.0 grams;

d) mark the loading point in the middle of the absorbent core. Note that the absorbent core does not cover the full length of the diaper but it is more concentrated in the front of the diaper. Therefore, the middle of the absorbent core will not be the same as the middle of the diaper: Measure the length and width of the absorbent core. Mark the midpoint, which will be the loading point;

e) place core with topsheet facing upward on the tray;

f) place rigid cover plate, ensure the plate is centered towards the width of the diaper core and the cylinder opening is placed over marked loading point. Diaper should be stretched showing minimum amount of wrinkles;

g) gently place weights on the plate (ideally use weight in a ring form to allow for equally applied pressure;

h) fill the measuring cylinder with respective amount of saline solution;

i) gently pour the saline onto the diaper starting the stop watch at the same time with the pouring;

j) stop the stopwatch as soon as the saline solution has been absorbed by the diaper (all the wet sheen has disappeared) and record the result in seconds as the rate of absorption;

k) leave the diaper undisturbed for 10 min;

l) lift the weight and cover plate and place the filter paper stack on the absorption point of the diaper;

m) replace the cover plate and the weight for 2 min on top of the filter paper stack;

n) after 2 min, remove the weight and cover plate and immediately determine and record the weight of the wet filter paper stack as W2; and

o) repeat the procedure on the remaining test specimens recording each result separately;
A.7 Calculation of results

A.7.1 Calculate as the rate of absorption in s, the mean time for absorption recorded in (j) above.

A.7.2REWET (g) = W2 (Wet filter paper weight) - W1 (Dry filter paper weight). Report the average of the 5 products tested.
Annex B
(normative)

Test Method for Retention Capacity

The test method for Retention Capacity requires the following steps:

A.1 EQUIPMENT

a) fischer & Paykel Ecosmart Model WA37T26G washing machine or equivalent piece of equipment. Must be capable of a 7 minutes & 15 second spin cycle at 670 rpm

b) weighing Tray – large enough for product being tested

c) lab Balance - capable of weighing to nearest gram

A.2 PROCEDURE

A.2.1 Upon completion of a liquid absorption capacity test, place the wet product in the washer with the absorbent core facing the side of the tub.

Note: Multiple products may be spun at the same time provided there is no overlapping of the product’s core. If testing multiple samples, identify them with indelible ink for identification.

A.2.2 Push the power button on the washing machine panel to turn the washer on.

A.2.3 Using the arrow button, select the Spin cycle under the Wash Progress display.

A.2.4 Select Medium at the spin speed display, and then push the Start/ Pause button. Medium spin speed is 670rpm and the complete cycle time is 7 minutes 15-seconds.

A.2.5 The machine’s lid will automatically lock to prevent opening during the cycle and the spin cycle will start.

A.2.6 When the spin cycle is complete, the machine will beep and the lid will automatically unlock.

A.2.7 Remove the product, place in a tare weighing tray and record the spun weight.

A.3 CALCULATIONS

A.3.1 Report the amount liquid retained in grams as Retention Capacity

A.3.2 Retention Capacity = Spun Weight - Dry Weight (Recorded prior to liquid absorbent capacity test)
Annex C
(normative)

Microbiological examination

C.1 Apparatus and equipment

Use apparatus and equipment complying with the relevant requirements of US ISO 7218.

C.2 Media and reagents

C.2.1 General

Ensure compliance with the general requirements for the ingredients and for the preparation of media and reagents given in US ISO 7218.

C.2.2 Bacteriological peptone

Peptone 10 g
Disodium phosphate dodecahydrate 1 g
Sodium chloride 5 g
Mono-potassium phosphate 1.5 g

Dissolve the ingredients in distilled water and make up to 1 L. Adjust the pH value to be 7.0 ± 0.1 after sterilization. Dispense 300 mL volumes into flasks of capacity 500 mL and sterilize by autoclaving at 121 °C ± 2 °C for 20 min.

C.2.3 Plate count agar

Agar 15 g
Glucose 1 g
Tryptone 5 g
Yeast extract 2.5 g

Dissolve the ingredients in distilled water, made up to 1 litre, and adjust the pH value to 7.2 ± 0.2. Dispense 15 mL volumes into bottles and sterilize by autoclaving at 121 °C ± 2 °C for 20 min.

C.2.4 Neutral red-bile salt peptone glucose medium

Peptone 20 g
Glucose 10 g
Bile salts No. 3 1.5 g
Sodium chloride 5 g
Neutral red 0.03 g
Crystal violet 0.002 g

Dissolve the ingredients in 400 mL of distilled water and make up to 500 mL boiling to aid solution. Adjust the pH value to 7.4 and filter to a clear solution. Dispense 10 mL volumes into bottles each containing a Durham tube and sterilize by autoclaving at 121 °C ± 2 °C for 20 min.

C.2.5 Fluid soybean-casein digest medium

Pancreatic digest of casein 17 g
Papaic digest of soybean meal 3 g
Sodium chloride 5 g
Dibasic potassium phosphate 2.5 g
Dextrose 2.5 g

Dissolve the ingredients in distilled water and make up to 1 litre, warming slightly to aid solution. Cool the solution to room temperature and adjust the pH value to be 7.3 ± 0.2 after sterilization. Filter to clarify (if necessary), dispense into suitable containers, and sterilize by autoclaving at 121 ± 2 °C for 20 min.

C.2.6 Centrimide agar medium

Pancreatic digest of gelatine 20 g
Magnesium chloride 1.4 g
Potassium sulphate 10 g
Agar 13.6 g
Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (Cetrimide) 0.3 g
Glycerine 10 mL

Dissolve all the solid ingredients in distilled water, make up to 1 L, and then add the glycerine. Heat, agitating frequently, and boil for 1 min. Adjust the pH value to be 7.2 ± 0.2 after sterilization. Dispense into suitable containers and sterilize by autoclaving at 121 °C ± 2 °C for 20 min.

C.2.7 Pseudomonas agar medium for detection of fluorescein

Pancreatic digest of casein 10 g
Peptic digest of animal tissue 10 g
Anhydrous dibasic potassium phosphate 1.5 g
Magnesium sulphate (MgSO4.7H2O) 1.5 g
Glycerine 10 mL
Agar 15 g
Dissolve all the solid ingredients in distilled water, make up to 1 L, and then add the glycerine. Heat, agitating frequently, and boil for 1 min. Adjust the pH value to be 7.2 ± 0.2 after sterilization. Dispense into suitable containers and sterilize by autoclaving at 121 °C ± 2 °C for 20 min.

C.2.8 *Pseudomonas agar medium for detection of pyocyanin*

- Pancreatic digest of casein 20 g
- Anhydrous magnesium chloride 1.4 g
- Anhydrous potassium sulphate 10 g
- Agar 15 g
- Glycerine 10 mL

C.3 Preparation of Test Suspension

Transfer 300 ml of the sterile solution of bacteriological peptone (C.2.2) to a sterile wide-mouthed jar of capacity not less than 1 litre and not more than 2 litres. The jar shall have a mouth of diameter not less than 150 mm and not more than 250 mm, and is fitted with a hermetically closing glass or metal-and-glass lid. Aseptically place the towel under test in the solution in the jar, fit the lid, agitate the contents of the jar for 2 min and then allow the jar to stand for 10 min. Repeat this agitating and standing procedure twice more. Aseptically remove about 100 ml of the test suspension for testing as described in C.4 below.

C.4 Procedure

C.4.1 Total viable bacterial count

Into each of three sterile petri dishes aseptically pipette a 1 mL portion of the test suspension. To each dish add 15 mL of freshly melted plate count agar that has been cooled to 45 °C, and mix well. Incubate, count and calculate the total count as described in US ISO 4833 Part 2. From the total viable bacterial count and the mass of the sanitary towel, calculate the total viable bacterial count per gram of sanitary towel.

C.4.2 Examination for the presence of *Enterobacteriaceae.*

Aseptically add 10 mL of the test suspension to a bottle that contains neutral red-bile salt peptone glucose medium (C.2.4). Incubate the bottle for 24 h to 36 h at 37 ± 0.5°C and examine for the presence of *Enterobacteriaceae* as evidenced by the formation of acid and gas.

C.4.3 Examination for the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus.*

Use the media, reagents and procedure described in US ISO 6888-2 to examine the test suspension (see C.3). As a control, pipette 0.1 mL of a 1:1000 dilution of an 18 h to 24 h culture of *Staphylococcus aureus* SATCC Sta 10 into *Staphylococcus* medium and proceed as with the test suspension.

C.4.4 Examination for the presence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

a) Aseptically pipette 10 mL of the test suspension into 90 mL of fluid soybean-casein digests medium (C.2.5) and mix well. Incubate for 24 h at 30 °C to 35 °C. By means of an inoculating loop transfer a portion from the 24 h incubated sample tube of fluid soybean-casein digest medium to the dry surface of petri dishes each containing approximately 20 mL of Cetrimide agar medium (C.2.6). Incubate at 30 °C to 35 °C and examine after 24h, and again after 48 h incubation, for suspect colonies, bearing in mind that in general greenish fluorescent colonies are typical of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and that in...
its presence a gram stain examined microscopically will reveal gram-negative slender rod-shaped cells.

b) As a control, add 0.1 ml of a 1:1 000 dilution of an 18 h to 24 h culture of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* SATCC Pse 11 mL to 100 mL of fluid soybean-casein digest medium (C.2.5), and proceed as with the test suspension.

c) If none of the colonies obtained from the test suspension conforms to the description given in i) above and the control culture has been satisfactorily recovered, deem the test sample to be free from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

d) If colonies conforming to the description given in i) above are found, streak representative suspect colonies from the Cetrimide agar onto the surfaces of *Pseudomonas agar* medium for the detection of fluorescein (C.2.7) and *Pseudomonas agar* medium for the detection of pyocyanin (C.2.8) to obtain isolated colonies. Cover and invert the petri dishes and incubate at 30 – 35 °C for at least 3 days. Examine the streaked surfaces under ultraviolet light for suspect colonies, as described in Table C.1.

**Table C.1 — Description of colonies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Description of colonies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Pseudomonas agar</em> for the detection of fluorescein</td>
<td>Generally colourless to yellowish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellowish fluorescence in ultra violet light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pseudomonas agar</em> for the detection of pyocyanin</td>
<td>Generally greenish. Blue fluorescence in ultraviolet light</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If any further doubt exists as to the identity of the colonies, obtain final confirmation by inoculating the suspect colonies to the wells on commercially available diagnostic kits in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
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