INSTRUCTION FOR USE

Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs (Cat. nr. PC006)

Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs is a simple, rapid and economical chemical-based test for the detection of food residues on food manufacturing surfaces after the performance of routine cleaning and sanitizing procedures have been performed.

Until recently, the primary method for the determination of the level of hygiene on food preparation and manufacturing surfaces has been the performance of bacterial counts. The performance of bacterial count requires access to laboratory facilities, appropriate training, and a test period of at least 24 hours.

Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs provides a simple, rapid alternative measurement of hygiene levels with results available within a few seconds. To be considered clean, food contact surfaces and equipment must be free of all traces of food residues. The efficient removal of food residues by the application of appropriate cleaning procedures will also reduce microbiological contamination present on surfaces.

1. PRINCIPLE OF THE TEST

Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs is a chemical-based test which provides a simple, rapid and economical method for the monitoring of the effectiveness of cleaning procedure in food preparation areas.
Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs detects protein residue from food samples, which will remain if cleaning procedures are not effective. If cleaning procedures are effective, food residues will not remain on the surface.
Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs produces an instant result which allows an immediate assessment of the effectiveness of cleaning procedures.

2. KIT CONTENTS

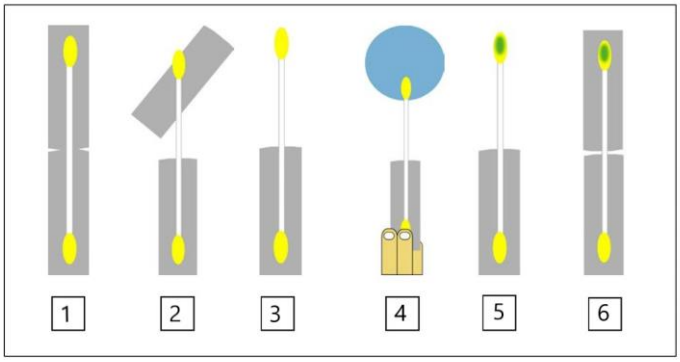
Each package of Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs contains 50x double headed swabs for the performance of 100 tests.

3. MATERIALS REQUIRED BUT NOT PROVIDED

- Sample Template for marking standards sample area (10 x 10cm)
- Clean disposable lint free disposable cloth or tissue
- Zip lock plastic bag

4. PROCEDURE

1) Separate the number of swabs required.
2) Tear the swab packaging at the mid-point as indicated.
3) Remove one side of the foil package to expose a swab head (do not discard foil packaging).
4) Test the sample area with the exposed swab head, whilst holding remaining part of swab in foil package.
5) A positive reaction is indicated by the swab head changing from yellow to green (positive = detection of protein residues) **WITHIN 5 SECONDS**.
6) Use removed foil package to cover used swab head.
7) Remove foil package to expose unused swab head to test a new sample area (as in step 3).



After using Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs, a pigment may remain on the surface. Clean the pigment from the sample area by washing with water or alcohol. The pigment is not hazardous.

5. INTERPRETATION

A **POSITIVE** reaction, i.e. the presence of protein (food residues, bacteria etc.) is indicated by the development of **BLUE** to **GREEN** depending on the levels of food contamination.

A **NEGATIVE** result the swab head remains **YELLOW** color. (See Below)

Gold Standard Diagnostics Budapest Kft.
Fóti út 56 A Ép., Budapest, Hungary
https://www.goldstandarddiagnostics.com/contacts

6. WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Safety:

1) Each swab is impregnated with a mixture of substances including ethanol (alcohol) which is flammable.
2) Keep swabs in tightly closed container (pouch).
3) Keep swabs away from sources of ignition.
4) Do not smoke when using swabs.

Procedural:

1) This product does not indicate the presence or absence of micro-organisms.
2) Do not use if the swab head is a green colour before sampling.
3) Do not re-use swabs.
4) Do not use product which has passed its expiry date.
5) This product is designed for the testing of surfaces after cleaning. It is **NOT** for food testing.
6) Do not use swabs if they have dried out.
7) Do not allow exposed swabs to touch skin or surfaces before use.

7. STORAGE AND SHELF LIFE

Store unopened Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs at 4 -25 °C. Store opened swabs in zip lock bag at 2 – 8 °C for up to 7 days.

8. INTERFERENCE BY CLEANING AGENTS

Before use, it is important that the Path-Chek Protein Swabs be tested to determine the potential effects of any cleaning or sanitizing agents employed. Some cleaning agents and sanitizers can interfere with the Path-Chek Protein Swabs reaction at high concentrations. However, at normal “in-use” concentrations interferences should not be detected.

It is important that after cleaning and sanitizing surfaces are washed with water to remove residual cleaning and sanitizing agents which if left on surfaces may contaminate food products.

Peroxide-based agents may interfere with normal reactions. Thorough rinsing after use of these agents is essential.

Using cleaning and sanitizing agents at the “in - use” concentration followed by rinsing of surfaces with water should not leave any residues of these agents which may interfere with the Path-Chek Protein Swabs.

Repeated abnormal results such as decolorizing of the swab may be indicative of high concentrations of residual agents with the potential to contaminate food. Such occurrences should be investigated.

9. DISPOSAL

Dispose according to local, regional and/or national regulations.

10. LIMITATIONS

Path-Chek Hygiene Protein Swabs can detect a minimum of 20 µg of protein per swab. Protein levels below this may lead to a negative reaction.