



Standard Operating Procedure

Bovine Brucellosis

Control of indirect ELISA kits

(Bulk milk samples)



SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The laboratory shall take all precautions in order to guarantee the necessary safety, for both the operator and the environment, against the biological and chemical hazards due to the activities conducted according to this document.

1 Scope

The present document describes a standard technique aiming at controlling the fulfilment of OIE and EU requirements regarding the standardisation of indirect enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (I-ELISA) kits for the detection of antibodies specific to smooth *Brucella* species (especially *B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*) in bovine tank milk.

2 Normative references

- Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*) (infection with *B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*), In: OIE Terrestrial Manual, 2018, Chapter 3.1.4., Paris. https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahm/3.01.04_BRUCELLOSIS.pdf
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products. Official Journal of the European Union 17.03.2017, L95/1-142. Text with EEA relevance. ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>
- ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- French Standard NF U47-310 - Animal health analysis methods - Biological reagents control for the immunological techniques used in animal health, September 2013, AFNOR, France.

3 Definitions

- **Bovine brucellosis**
Infection of bovines due to bacteria of the genus *Brucella*, naturally in the smooth (S) phase (*B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* or *B. suis*), pathogenic for most mammal species, in which this infection usually induces the production of S-*Brucella*-specific antibodies.
- **National Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis (NRL)**
Laboratory officially designated as such by the authority of the corresponding Member State. According to the abovementioned Commission Decision, this NRL is responsible for:
“(1) the approval of the results of the validation studies demonstrating the reliability of the test method used in the Member State;



- (2) determination of the maximum number of samples to be pooled in ELISA kits used;
- (3) calibration of working standards /.../;
- (4) quality checks of all antigens and ELISA kits batches used in the Member State;
- (5) following recommendations of, and cooperating with the EU reference laboratory for brucellosis.

- **Official Control Laboratory (OCL)**

Laboratory in charge of the official control of all antigens and ELISA kits batches used in the Member State (usually the Member State's NRL). This activity could be assigned to another laboratory, the NRL of another Member State, in particular.

- **International standard sera**

International standard sera for Bovine brucellosis enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs)¹:

- the strong positive OIE ELISA standard serum (OIEELISA_{SPSS});

The OIEELISA_{SPSS} when diluted 1/125 in negative serum and further diluted 1/10 in negative milk have to test positive.

- **Secondary or European / National standard serum²**

Secondary or European / National standard serum established against the abovementioned OIE standard sera and containing a defined concentration of anti-*Brucella* antibody corresponding to a defined activity in bovine brucellosis tank milk ELISAs.

- **Dilution**

A two-step dilution process is required.

- Initial pre-dilution of the standard / reference sera or milk made up in a dilution negative serum (7.5)
- 2nd dilution (1/10) in a negative raw cattle milk for standard/reference sera.

Dilutions are made directly (no serial dilutions) using an initial volume of neat serum of at least 10 µl. A minimum volume of 10 µl of the dilution is used to perform the final dilution in the negative raw cattle milk.

4 Specific requirements before submission of a kit to control

Nil.

¹ Obtainable from the OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis at AHVLA Weybridge, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB, UK. Due to the limited stock left, the OIEISS should be restricted to the control of conventional antigens (RBT, CFT, SAT, MRT in particular) and must not be used for the control of ELISA kits.

² Obtainable from the OIE/EU Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis at ANSES Maisons-Alfort, France.



5 Sampling

The supplier or manufacturer sends complete kits (microplates, reagents, final packaging, and instructions for use) to the OCL in sufficient quantity in order to perform all tests needed by the present procedure (control of a batch during the validity period).

6 Storage and disposal of batch samples

According to the instructions of the supplier/manufacturer during the validity period.

7 Standard sera, milk and Reference materials

These materials are stored at a temperature $< -16^{\circ}\text{C}$ or freeze-dried and stored at $5^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$.

7.1 International standard sera (OIE ELISA_{SPSS})

7.2 Secondary or European / National standard sera (at least the positive standard)

7.3 Reference panel of positive sera

At least 5 bovine serum samples issued from animals naturally or experimentally infected by smooth *Brucella* (*B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* or *B. suis*) will be tested. These sera must be chosen in such a way that the reaction obtained is slightly above the cut-off. They are diluted in negative raw cattle milk (1/10).

7.4 Reference panel of negative sera and milk

At least 5 bovine serum or milk samples issued from brucellosis free animals will be tested. Some of these sera or milk may present characteristics known as interfering with the reaction (background for instance).

7.5 Dilution Negative serum (DNS) and Negative raw cattle milk (NRCM)

A pool of at least 3 negative bovine serum samples is recommended for the DNS.

A negative raw cattle milk is used for the 2nd dilution.

7.6 Reference serum for the measure of repeatability

Dilution of a bovine positive serum made up in the DNS (7.5) in such a manner that it shows a titre comparable or just above the required level of detection.

Note: materials 7.2-7.6 must be made available to any kit supplier/manufacturer on request.



8 Principle

8.1 Control of a new batch

This control is performed by the OCL on samples of any new batch to be approved in the corresponding Member State. The OCL is to check the following parameters:

8.1.1 Limit of detection (LOD)

- dilutions at 1/30, 1/60, 1/125, 1/250 and 1/500 of the OIEELISA_{SPSS} or,
- appropriate equivalent dilutions of the national or secondary bovine brucellosis standard serum (7.2), tested twice per plate in two plates.

8.1.2 Sensitivity

- Five positive sera from the Reference panel of positive sera (7.3) are diluted to 1/10 in NRCM tested twice per plate in two plates.

8.1.3 Specificity

- Five negative sera or milk from the Reference panel of negative sera or milk (7.4) tested twice per plate in two plates.

8.1.4 Repeatability

Reference serum (diluted in NRCM) for the measure of repeatability (7.6) tested at least 20 times per plate in two plates; the same preparation of the serum dilution is distributed in each well with the same mono-channel pipette for all the wells used.

9 Equipment and plastic/glass ware

Conventional serology laboratory equipment.

10 Operating procedure

The OCL must follow the instructions for use of the respective kit. Nevertheless, the positive and negative control sera of the kit may be tested in the plates more times than those prescribed in the instructions for use of the corresponding kit.

The OCL can decide to use the minimal or the maximal values of time and temperature ranges prescribed by the instructions for use.

The control of a new batch are performed at least in two plates.

11 Interpretation of results



11.1 Validation of kit controls

- Each plate should be validated using five replicates of kit controls (positive control / negative control / blank).

-For the positive control, the mean value of ODs (optical density measured at 450 nm ; mean OD positive) and coefficient of variation (CV) will be calculated from all five results. The CV estimated from OD values must be less than (or equal to) 10%.

-The negative control should be negative. The mean value of optical densities (mean OD negative) will be calculated in order to estimate following criteria:

- ELISA cut-off value =

mean OD negative + (mean OD positive - mean OD negative)*cut-off (%)

- ratio mean OD positive / mean OD negative (to be compared to manufacturer instructions)

11.2 Limit of detection (LOD)

- a 1/125 pre-dilution of the OIEELISA_{SPSS} made up in DNS must give a positive reaction;

11.3 Sensitivity

All five positive sera from the Reference panel of positive sera (7.3) must give a positive reaction.

11.4 Specificity

All five negative sera or milk from the Reference panel of negative sera (7.3) must give a negative reaction.

11.5 Repeatability

The CV of the OD values obtained for the 20 repeats of the test of the Reference serum for the measure of repeatability (7.6) must be less than (or equal to) 10 % in each plate.

12 Restitution of results

The OCL provides the supplier/manufacturer with the detailed results corresponding to the tests described in chapter 8, and, in particular, the OD values obtained and the template followed for the different plates.

13 Analysis report

The analysis report must comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

The report clearly mentions whether the kit complies or not with the acceptability criteria.

