

3M Microbiology

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2006

Contact: Kevin Habas
3M Microbiology
651-575-3484
kahabas1@mmm.com

3M™ Petrifilm™ Environmental Listeria Plate Receives Validation from the AOAC™ Research Institute

ST. PAUL, Minn. – 3M Microbiology is pleased to announce that the 3M Petrifilm Environmental Listeria (EL) Plate has been validated by the AOAC Research Institute (AOAC-RI) for the detection of *Listeria* on environmental surfaces in food processing plants. AOAC-RI granted the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate Certification No. 030601 through its Performance Tested Methods ProgramSM, which provides an independent third-party assessment of the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate and assures the user that the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate performs as claimed.

Validation studies compared the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate's performance to the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service Most Probable Number (USDA-FSIS MPN) Method. AOAC-RI found that the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate's performance is equivalent to that of the USDA-FSIS MPN Method for detecting *Listeria* species on environmental surfaces such as stainless steel, plastic, ceramic tile, and sealed concrete.

“We are pleased that the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate now has AOAC validation, as do the rest of our 3M™ Petrifilm™ Plate product line,” states Nelrose Vilorio, Marketing, 3M Microbiology.

“Many of our customers have been eager to take advantage of the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate. This AOAC-RI validation only adds to the product's credibility, along with the repertoire of scientific studies that support it.”

The 3M Petrifilm EL Plate, first released in April 2004, was developed by 3M Microbiology to meet an industry need—additional information that would allow food manufacturers to more closely monitor environmental *Listeria* in a timely manner without negatively impacting quality assurance testing budgets. The 3M Petrifilm EL Plate delivers just that. This technological breakthrough is cost-effective, allowing plants to test more than ever before using the same budget. In addition, the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate's quantitative result provides an indication of the level of *Listeria* contamination instead of simply identifying presence or absence. This additional information would enable plants to identify contamination sources and track hotspots

or growth niches over time, so that they could better detect, manage, and prevent *Listeria* in the environment.

Best of all, they get their results only 29 hours after sample collection, with no lengthy enrichment step. This rapid turnaround allows plants to take corrective action in a more timely manner. And because the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate requires no enrichment step, plants also introduce less risks of cross-contamination in the plant due to culture transfers.

The 3M Petrifilm EL Plate delivers the same advantages that food manufacturers have enjoyed from other 3M Petrifilm Plates for many years. It is sample-ready, eliminating the need to prepare media. It has an easy-to-use procedure and fewer steps, which not only increases productivity and reduces labor costs, but also minimizes variability, providing more consistent test results. It requires minimal training, no additional equipment, and is backed by world-class customer and technical support.

For more information about the 3M Petrifilm EL Plate and other 3M Microbiology products, please visit www.3m.com/microbiology, contact your local 3M Microbiology sales representative, or call 1-800-860-0022 x942.

About 3M Microbiology -- A Division of 3M Company

3M Microbiology designs, manufactures, and markets innovative testing and monitoring products to help food and beverage processors, retailers, and food services companies worldwide manage microbial risk and improve food quality.

About 3M -- A Global, Diversified Technology Company

Everyday, 3M people find new ways to make amazing things happen. Wherever they are, whatever they do, the company's customers know they can rely on 3M to help make their lives better. 3M's brands include Scotch, Post-it, Scotchgard, Thinsulate, Scotch-Brite, Filtrete, Command, and Vikuiti. Serving customers in more than 200 countries around the world, the company's 67,000 people use their expertise, technologies, and global strength to lead in major markets including consumer and office; display and graphics; electronics and telecommunications; safety, security and protection services; health care; industrial and transportation. For more information, including the latest product and technology news, visit www.3M.com.

3M and Petrifilm are trademarks of 3M Company.
AOAC is a trademark of AOAC International.