Glassware Sterilisation and Culture-media Quality

Experiment 2 - Practical Notes

Name: _____ Roll no.: _____ Date: _____

Aim

To interpret sterilisation records and recognise the information in media quality documentation.

Principle

A sterilisation process requires validated conditions and appropriate monitoring. Media suitability depends on formulation, quality control and intended use; appearance alone cannot establish performance.

Requirements

- Instructor-prepared fixed slides, labelled images, demonstration records or coded teaching data for this practical.
- Activity form, microscope for prepared slides where applicable and calculator.

Procedure

1. Identify the teaching material

Record the slide, image or data code, method name and the assigned comparison. Use prepared material and supplied results for this exercise.

2. Inspect glassware preparation records

Identify the cleaning, packaging and labelling information from the supplied process sheet.

3. Read a sterilisation record

Locate cycle identification, load description and recorded process/indicator outcomes. Decide whether the stated release criteria were met.

4. Read a media record

Identify medium name, lot, purpose, appearance, assigned sterility/performance control and expiry status without preparing or inoculating a culture.

5. Investigate a failed control

Write which result cannot be released and which responsible person should review the process failure.

6. Assess controls and limitations

Confirm the meaning of the positive, negative, blank or process controls supplied. State which conclusions the results support and which require additional evidence.

7. Complete the record

Enter observations separately from interpretations. Record units, method conditions given with the data and the instructor-reviewed conclusion.

Observations and Record

Record component	Entry
Glassware / load code	_____
Sterilisation record and indicators	_____
Media lot / intended use	_____
Quality-control finding	_____
Release or hold rationale	_____

Result

Material / data code: ____. Observed result: ____. Control assessment: ____. Interpretation and limitation: ____.

Precautions

- This activity uses prepared material and data interpretation; it is not a live microbial culture or pathogen-handling procedure.
- Keep morphological, quantitative and clinical interpretations separate.
- Use the method-specific assigned quality controls and current interpretive criteria where relevant.

Viva Questions and Answers

1. Does a colour-change indicator alone prove every item sterile?

No. It must be interpreted as part of the validated process and load-monitoring system.

2. Why perform media quality control?

A medium must be suitable for its intended method; a correct label does not establish performance.

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