

# TEST SPECIFIC CHECKLIST

Revised: March 2007

## Growth Inhibition Test Using a Freshwater Alga

N.B. Shaded text reflects March 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> edition changes

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Parameter	Specification	Met Specifics?		
		Y	N	NA
2 <sup>nd</sup> edition EPS 1/RM/25	Has the laboratory incorporated all of the changes in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition of EPS 1/RM/25 into their SOPs?.....	...	...	...
<b>Sample Preparation</b>				
Homogenization.....	Sample shaken vigorously to ensure homogeneity and to resuspend particulates.....	...	...	...
Filtration.....	Subsample sufficient to complete the test (e.g., 5-10 mL); filtered through preconditioned 0.45 µm pore diameter membrane ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
pH Adjustment.....	pH measured just before sample is used to prepare test solutions ( <b>Must</b> )... No adjustment if pH of test solution is within 6.5 - 8.5; a second (pH adjusted) test might be required if pH is beyond this range.....	...	...	...
T° Measurement.....	T° measured in sample on arrival at lab ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
<b>Test Conditions</b>				
Test Facility.....	Temperature and lighting can be controlled and monitored continuously. ... Environmental chamber meets recommended specifications for test type, temperature and light quality/intensity ( <b>Must</b> )..... Test chamber well ventilated, free of dust and vapors, and protected from external perturbations..... Test conditions uniform throughout environmental chamber and identical to those in culturing facility.....	...	...	...
Test Equipment.....	Instruments for routine measurements of chemical, physical and biological variables maintained properly and calibrated regularly ( <b>Must</b> )..... No equipment made of copper, zinc, brass, galvanized metal, lead or natural rubber allowed ( <b>Must</b> )..... Equipment not previously used in tests are pre-rinsed in dilution water and tested for cytotoxicity prior to use.....	...	...	...
Test Type.....	Static ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Test Duration.....	72h ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Test T°.....	24 ± 2°C ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Light Quality.....	Overhead "cool white" fluorescent ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Light Intensity.....	4000 ± 400 lux at surface; quantal flux ~56 ± 6 µmol/(m <sup>2</sup> • s) ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Photoperiod.....	Continuous light ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Aeration.....	None( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Vessel Size & Type.....	Sterile, disposable, rigid, polystyrene, 96-well microplates ( <b>Must</b> ); covered recommend untreated..... If electronic particle reader or manual enumeration is used, U-shaped microplates are required ( <b>Must</b> )..... If photometric method used, flat-bottomed microplates are required ( <b>Must</b> ).. For chemical testing, glass microplates are used ( <b>Must</b> ); however lab may use polystyrene, if they can demonstrate that the test chemical does not sorb to polystyrene more than glass in side-by-side comparisons..... If volatility expected, test conc. isolated from one another by using separate plates or polyester seals ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...
Test Volume.....	≥ 3 mL for each sample conc.; more required if chemical analysis of test concentrations is desired( <b>Must</b> )..... Final volume in each well is 220 µL ( <b>Must</b> ); with 200 µL of sample, 10 µL of enrichment medium and 10 µL of algal inoculum.....	...	...	...
Renewal of Solution.....	None.....	...	...	...
Dilution/Control Water.....	Reagent water (Millipore Super Q™ water or equivalent), receiving water, groundwater, surface water or reconstituted water..... All field-collected control/dilution water is filtered through 0.45 µm filter before use to reduce algal contamination ( <b>Must</b> )..... Same water used for preparing control and test solutions ( <b>Must</b> )..... If upstream water is used as control/dilution water, a separate set of replicate control solutions is to be prepared using reagent water ( <b>Must</b> ).....	...	...	...

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Enrichment Medium . . .	Stored in dark at 4°C in a closed inert container <b>(Must)</b> . . . . . Can be stored up to 6 months. . . . .	...	...	...
Algal Inoculum. . . . .	Inoculum consists of <i>P. subcapitata</i> cells harvested from a liquid stock algal culture that is 3-7 d old and in logarithmic growth phase <b>as demonstrated from growth curves (Must)</b> . . . . . Prepared ≤ 2-3 h before incubation of microplate <b>(Must)</b> . . . . . <b>Harvested cells centrifuged at 2000g for 15 min, supernatant discarded and cells resuspended in 5 to 10 mL of bicarbonate solution (may be prepared by diluting stock solution #5); determine cell concentration and dilute such that initial cell concentration is 10 000 cells/mL(Must)</b> . . . . . Algal inoculum final solution is 220 000 ± 22 000 cells/mL. . . . . Algal cells used for testing are not obtained from the first stock culture derived from a solid-phase (agar slant) starter culture. . . . .	...	...	...
Vessel Identification. . .	Microplate labeled to identify test sample, conc., date and time of test. . . . . Test solutions are dispensed to wells in a predetermined pattern. . . . .	...	...	...
# Test Conc. . . . .	≥7 plus control to calculate IC <sub>p</sub> <b>(Must)</b> ; ≥10 are recommended. . . . . <b>For tests with wastewater and receiving water, actual concentrations are lower due to dilution with nutrient spike and algal inoculum; actual (calculated) concentration must be used in endpoint calculations and reporting (Must)</b> . . . . .	...	...	...
# Replicates/Conc. . . . .	4 (for 2 controls) or 5 (for 1 control) per test conc. set up.; ≥3 per test conc. are enumerated; 10 for standard control(s) and any additional dilution water (if used); 2 of the 10 standard control wells are used to measure pH and the remaining 8 for cell enumeration <b>(Must)</b> . . . . .	...	...	...
# Algal Cells/Well. . . . .	2200 cells per well (initial cell density of 10 000 ± 1000 cells/mL) <b>(Must)</b> . . . . .	...	...	...
Dispensing Solutions.	Multi-channel pipette used to dispense 220 µL of reagent water to 36 peripheral wells (these wells excluded from test due to “edge-effect”). . . . . Dispense 200 µL of lowest test conc. (highest dilution) first and highest conc. last to appropriate wells; dispense 200 µL of reagent water to D2 to D11 wells; add 20 µL of mixture containing equal volumes of algal inoculum and enrichment medium to each well of microplate (except peripheral wells). . . . . <b>An additional row (e.g., row E) containing control/dilution water is used when control/dilution water is not reagent water (Must)</b> . . . . .	...	...	...
Microplate Incubation.	Microplates placed in plastic bags and sealed. . . . . Microplates placed in an incubator or environmental chamber <b>(Must)</b> . . . . . Microplates distributed randomly throughout the incubator. . . . .	...	...	...
Vessel Cleaning. . . . .	Reusable glassware <b>is</b> cleaned and treated to remove trace metals and organics <b>(Must)</b> . . . . . Reusable equipment made of any material other than glass also be washed by the <b>recommended</b> method if it can withstand the treatment <b>(Must)</b> . . . . .	...	...	...
Substance Testing. . . . .	Containers sealed and labeled with chemical name, supplier, date received and grade or purity <b>(Must)</b> . . . . . If solubilizing agent used, additional controls (containing highest conc. of the solubilizing agent) be run <b>(Must)</b> . . . . . <b>Stock solutions are not filtered (Must); reagent water may be filtered prior to preparation of chemical stock solutions.</b> . . . . . <b>If a metal substance or metal mixture is being tested, the final amount of Na<sub>2</sub>EDTA · 2H<sub>2</sub>O is reduced by 25% for a final concentration of 46.9µg/L in test medium (Must)</b> . . . . .	...	...	...
Biological Endpoints. . .	Growth inhibition of algae; based on algal cell yield (subtract initial cell concentration (~10 000 cells/mL) from final cell concentration). . . . .	...	...	...

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Enumeration..... (continued)	If enumeration results from 3 replicates of test conc. are inconsistent (i.e., high variation), counts are completed of additional replicates <b>(Must)</b> ..... Less than 7 concentrations are enumerated only if :(i) cell counts of lower test conc. show that a large effect (e.g., > IC50) has been reached, then counts at higher test conc. are not required; (ii) cell counts show that there is no effect, then only 6 concentrations are required for enumeration and the highest test concentration must be enumerated <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
Manual Enumeration.	Algal cells resuspended in each well prior to subsampling or counting <b>(Must)</b> . Algal cells counted using a hemocytometer..... Manual enumeration is performed on the same day the test is terminated; microplates are not stored at 4°C <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
Electronic Enumeration.....	Electronic particle counter calibrated according to SOP <b>(Must)</b> ..... Operative aperture diameter of 70 µm recommended..... 170 µL from each well withdrawn and diluted with isotonic diluent..... Counted 1-3 times, ideally immediately after isotonic solution added- (alternatively cap and store in dark at 4°C for up to 24h after adding isotonic solution, then resuspend and count).....	...	...	...
Photometry.....	Absorbance and fluorescence measurements may also be used as a surrogate after it is established that there is a consistent, quantifiable, and reliable relationship with cell yield <b>(Must)</b> ..... Additionally, absorbance or fluorescence measurements may only be performed with sample if the test solutions containing algal inocula in microplates have been centrifuged and if the algal cells are then resuspended in a clear solution before deriving the endpoints <b>(Must)</b> ..... For ≥ 3 wells of test solutions (high, medium & low cell densities), concurrent counts made using electronic particle counter or hemocytometer <b>(Must)</b> ..... Results for these 3 direct counts compared to the estimates of cell density obtained by the photometry method for the same wells <b>(Must)</b> ..... Direct counts of cell density within the expected variation (± 2 SD) for the respective points on the standard calibration curve (absorbance vs cell conc.); if not, algal counts for each wells determined only by hemocytometer or electronic particle counter..... Before measuring absorbance (wavelength 430 nm), algal cells in each well resuspended in reagent water <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
<b>Test Organism</b>				
Species.....	<i>Pseudokirchneriella subcapitata</i> ..... Strains ATCC 22662, UTEX 1648, or UTCC37 recommended..... Identified to species by microscopic examination; confirmed by an algal taxonomist <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
Source.....	Commercial biological supply house.....	...	...	...
Age.....	Algal culture between 3 and 7 days old and in exponential growth phase (culture very green and cell conc. ~ 2 x 10 <sup>6</sup> - 3 x 10 <sup>6</sup> cells/mL).....	...	...	...
Health Criteria.....	Alga uncontaminated with other species of algae or microorganisms <b>(Must)</b> . Alga in an exponential growth phase <b>(Must)</b> ..... Culture health and performance evaluated by periodically measuring rate of growth and relative sensitivity to reference toxicant <b>(Must)</b> ..... An algal growth curve, starting with an inoculum from the algal stock culture, be determined over an 8 to 10 d period using an Erlenmeyer flask <b>(Must)</b> ... An algal growth curve is to be performed ≥2 X/year <b>(Must)</b> ; recommend ≥4. If algal testing is performed throughout the year, preparation of growth curves should be separated by 5-6 months; if algal testing is seasonal (i.e., during summer months only), growth curves should be conducted at the beginning and end of the testing period for that year.....	...	...	...

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<b><u>Culture/Holding Conditions</u></b>				
Starter Culture. . . . .	Agar slant, liquid culture, or frozen in an ampule as a dried pellet. . . . . Stored in the dark at 4 °C and remain viable for at least 6 months. . . . . Every 12 months a new culture is purchased ( <b>Must</b> ). . . . . Aseptically transferred to, and resuspended in, a defined growth medium to maintain a stock culture as a source for toxicity tests ( <b>Must</b> ). . . . . A new algal culture for toxicity testing is set up from the "starter" culture every 2 months ( <b>Must</b> ). . . . .	...	...	...
Stock Culture. . . . . (Liquid or Solid)	Routine microscopic examination of stock algal culture to evaluate culture health (cell morphology, colour, clumping, and contamination). . . . .	...	...	...
Liquid Growth Medium for Stock Culture. . . . .	Volume-to-flasks ratio of 20% (eg: 25 mL medium in a 125 mL flask; 50 mL medium in a 250 mL flask). . . . . Aseptically transfer an inoculum of starter culture using a disposable sterile pipette or a group of cells using a sterile loop to liquid growth medium. . . . . Incubate at 24 ± 2°C; continuous light ("cool white" fluorescent; 4000 lux at surface); continuous shaker at 100 rpm or shaken manually 2 x daily. . . . . Culture renewed weekly to ensure regular supply of exponentially growing algal cells by aseptically transferring 1.0 mL of stock algal culture (3 to 7 days post inoculation) to clean growth medium. . . . . Purity verified at each transfer by microscopic examination and by transferring an inoculum of algal stock culture to a petri-dish containing solid bacterial nutrient medium and incubating at 24°C for 48h (to reveal presence of contaminating bacteria undetectable by microscope) ( <b>Must</b> ). . . . .	...	...	...
Solid Growth Medium for Stock Culture. . . . .	Algal cells aseptically transferred from liquid culture to sterile solid growth medium using streak-plate procedures. . . . . Plates incubated upside down under conditions which match culturing conditions (i.e., 24 ± 2°C under continuous "cool white" fluorescent light with an intensity of 4000 lux; no agitation necessary) until colonies are visible (~ 2 weeks). . . . . Stored at 4°C in dark, cells remain viable for up to 3 months. . . . .	...	...	...
Aeration. . . . .	No aeration for any liquid algal cultures since axenic cultures. . . . .	...	...	...

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Parameter	Specification	Met Specifics?		
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<p><b>QA/QC</b> Test Validity Criteria. . .</p>	<p><b>Test is valid if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homogeneity demonstrated for the standard control wells, among the measurements or photometric estimates of cell yield (C.V. ≤ 20%) <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</li> <li>• <b>The C.V. is ≥ 10% but ≤ 20% in standard controls;</b> application of trend analyses (<i>Mann-Kendall test</i>) to estimates of cell yield in the standard control wells indicate that no trend or gradient in algal cell conc. is present in the control treatment; <b>and (Must)</b>. . . . .</li> <li>• Number of algal cells measured or estimated (if photometry used) for the standard controls have increased by a factor of more than 16 in 72h <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</li> </ul>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>
<p>Reference Toxicant. . .</p>	<p>One or more of the following 3 chemicals: <b>copper sulphate</b>, zinc sulphate or phenol. . . . .</p> <p><b>Start</b> within 14 d <b>of the toxicity test period</b> and under the same experimental conditions as those used with the test sample(s) <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</p> <p>The same batch of organisms be used for tests on both the reference toxicant and the sample. . . . .</p> <p>Reagent water routinely used in algal toxicity test to be used as control/dilution water in reference toxicant tests. . . . .</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>
<p>Warning Chart. . . . .</p>	<p>Prepared and updated for each reference toxicant used <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</p> <p>Results within acceptable warning limits (± 2 SD on log scale). . . . .</p> <p><b>Log concentrations used for mean &amp; SD calculations and plotting (Must)</b>. . .</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>
<p>Quality Control Microplate. . . . .</p>	<p>A quality control microplate (220 µL of reagent water in peripheral wells and 200 µL of reagent water, 10 µL of algal inoculum and 10 µL of enrichment medium in the other wells) incubated to provide a standard for appraising algal growth under the test conditions and also to monitor the pH inside the wells. . . . .</p>	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>
<p><b>Sample Handling</b> Containers. . . . .</p>	<p>Non-toxic materials for sample and transport containers, new containers or thoroughly cleaned used containers <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</p> <p>Container be rinsed with the sample to be collected, and then filled to the brim and sealed. . . . .</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>
<p>Volume. . . . .</p>	<p>1L. . . . .</p>	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>	<p>...</p>
<p>Labeling. . . . .</p>	<p>Include at least sample type, source, date and time of collection and name of sample collectors. . . . .</p> <p>Chain of custody during sample collection, transport, and storage recorded. . . . .</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>
<p>Holding Time. . . . .</p>	<p>Test to be initiated within 3 days after sampling (or following preparation of elutriate) <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</p> <p>Recommend test initiation within 1 day after sampling. . . . .</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p>
<p>Holding Conditions. . . .</p>	<p>Make effort to keep samples cool throughout their period of transport <b>(Must)</b> at 1 - 7°C (preferably 4 ± 2°C) using regular ice or frozen gel packs. . . . .</p> <p>Upon collection, if sample &gt; 7°C, cool to 1 - 7°C with regular ice or frozen gel packs (not dry ice) <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</p> <p>Sample be kept from freezing during transport or storage <b>(Must)</b>. . . . .</p> <p>Samples or portions of samples to be stored for subsequent use be held in sealed containers without air headspace, in the dark at 4 ± 2°C <b>(Must)</b>. . .</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p> <p>...</p>

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<b>Test Report</b>					
Sample Data.....	Brief description of sample type if and as provided to the lab <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Information on labelling or coding of sample <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Date of sample collection; date and time of sample received at lab <b>(Must)</b> ..	...	...	...	
	For effluent or leachate, T° of sample upon receipt at lab <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	pH of sample just before its preparation and use in toxicity test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	For elutriate, dates for sample generation and use <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Test Organism.....	Species, strain number, and origin of culture <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
		Age of known-age culture used to provide inocula of test organisms, at the start of the test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
		Any unusual appearance or treatment of known-age culture, before its use in the test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
	Test Facilities.....	Name and address of test laboratory <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
		Name of person(s) performing the test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
	Control/Dilution Water.	Type and source of water used as control and dilution water <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
		Type/quantity of any chemical(s) added to control or dilution water <b>(Must)</b> ..	...	...	...
	Test Method.....	Citation of biological test method used <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
		Design and description if specialized procedure <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...
Program(s) and methods used for calculating statistical endpoints <b>(Must)</b> ..		...	...	...	
Test Conditions.....	Design and description if any deviation from or exclusion of any of the procedures and conditions specified in test method document <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Mean test temperature <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Number and concentration of test solutions <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Number of replicate test wells per treatment (including controls) <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Initial cell density of the <b>algal</b> inoculum <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Statement and description (ie: procedure, rate, and duration) if any aeration of sample or test solutions before starting the test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Description of procedure for sample filtration <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Brief description of any sample or test solutions receiving pH adjustment, and/or hardness adjustment, including procedure(s) <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	pH of sample before any dilution, at the start of the test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	pH of the two median control wells at start and end of test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
Test Results.....	Dates when test was started and ended; duration of test <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Cell concentration in each replicate (including controls) at test end <b>(Must)</b> ..	...	...	...	
	If absorbance is used, cell concentration (direct count) in the three wells containing high/medium/low test concentrations, and their corresponding values estimated using the absorbance method <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Mean <b>cell (± SD)</b> cell yield at 72h for each treatment (including controls), with corresponding CV (CV = 100 X standard deviation/mean) <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	ICp (with its 95% confidence limits) <b>using concentrations corrected for the volume of algal inoculum and enrichment media; details regarding any weighting techniques applied to the data; and indication of quantitative method used (Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	<b>Any outliers and the justification for their removal (Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Details regarding any statistical transformation of data required <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	ICp and 95% confidence limits for any toxicity tests with the reference toxicant(s) performed within one month of the test, together with the geometric mean value (± 2 SD) for the same reference toxicant(s) as derived at the test facility in previous tests <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Any findings of growth stimulation, at any concentration(s) <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
	Anything unusual about the test, any problems encountered, any remedial measures taken <b>(Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	
<b>Original Data Sheets.</b>	<b>Original data sheets are signed or initialed, and dated by the laboratory personnel conducting the tests (Must)</b> .....	...	...	...	

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<b><u>Info Kept On-File</u></b>	Do lab SOPs indicate that the information on Section 8.2 of the <b>2<sup>nd</sup> edition of</b> EPS 1/RM/25 method must be kept on file for 5 years? ( <b>Must</b> ). . . . .  For details of this information, see <b>the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of</b> EPS 1/RM/25, Section 8.2.	...	...	...