REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR NOROVIRUS AND HEPATITIS A

Reference materials (RM) are important elements of quality control in microbiological testing. In partnership with CEFAS, the United Kingdom’s Health Protection Agency (HPA) provides RMs for norovirus (genogroups I and II) and hepatitis A virus. These RM’s can be used as in-run positive controls for quantitative molecular assays such as real time qRT-PCR and for method calibration and characterisation. They are also suitable for use in qualitative conventional or semi-quantitative RT-PCR analysis.

The RM’s were developed in parallel with the draft standard - Microbiology of Food and Animal Feed: Detection of Norovirus and Hepatitis A in Foodstuffs - Part 1: Quantitative Determination, and Part 2: Qualitative Determination which was developed by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). For further details see Lees D. N. and CEN TAG4 (2010).

Reference values:
The RMs are supplied with a certificate of analysis which gives reference values. These values are generated using a real time qRT-PCR using CEFAS’ ISO 17025 accredited procedures for virus quantification and are based upon the draft CEN standard.

Further details of the methodology used for quantification of norovirus and hepatitis A can be found in Dancer et al., (2010) and Costrafreda et al., (2006). If your laboratory methods differ from that used to generate the reference values you are advised to carry out calibrations using your routine methods.

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References: