

## Xpert qDetect Duplex Legionella spp. and L.pneumophila

#GDK19.0100 (100 rxns)

(FOR RESEARCH ONLY)



**Product:** *Legionella* is the sole genus of the family Legionellaceae, which consists of over 50 species comprising over 70 serogroups. Nearly half of *Legionella* species are associated with human disease, such as Pontiac Fever and Legionnaires' disease (LD). LD is the most severe form of infection, with clinical symptoms including pneumonia and a fatality rate of around 10%. More than half of the isolates associated with LD in previously healthy individuals are *L. pneumophila* (serogroup 1) <sup>[1][2]</sup>.

*Legionella* spp. are very common to the aqueous with amoebae being among their natural hosts. *Legionella* infection occurs via inhalation of water droplets from a contaminated source that has allowed the organism to grow and spread. *Legionella* spp. can often be found, in high concentration, in a wide variety of environmental water sources such as ponds, hot-water tanks, hot tubs, showerheads, whirlpools, spas, air-conditioning, cooling towers, and public fountains, if those water systems are not managed correctly (e.g. in case of stagnation and warm temperatures).

Traditional microbiological detection and confirmation methods are long established and well developed but are laborious and typically require many days in order to obtain results, as *Legionella* are slow growing bacteria. This qPCR Detection Kit provides a fast, sensitive and reliable method for the detection of *Legionella* based on qPCR using specific FAM-labeled probes, requiring only a few hours. This immense time reduction allows taking appropriate action, if needed, much sooner

This kit is compatible with instruments equipped with FAM, HEX/JOE and ROX channels. The detection limit is approximately 5pg of *Legionella* DNA allowing the detection of as little 10<sup>3</sup> cells/L of water, with a specificity of 100%.

**Applications:** Simultaneous detection (duplex) of *Legionella* spp. (FAM-labelled) and *L.pneumophila* (HEX/JOE-labelled) in water (following concentration by membrane filtration and subsequent DNA extraction (see: "prior to use")).

**Contents:** The qPCR Detection Kit (#GDK19.0100) for *Legionella* spp. and *L.pneumophila* contains sufficient reagents for 100 qPCR reactions.

Component	GDK19.0100
LD Mix A	2x 840 µl
LD Mix B	210 µl
Positive Control (LD+)	70 µl
Negative Control (LD-)	70 µl

**Note:** This product does not include reagents and other materials required for DNA extraction.

**Properties:** Fast, Easy and Reliable  
 Low limit of Detection  
 Validated according to ISO 22118:2011  
 100% Specificity  
 Compatible with instruments equipped with **FAM** and **ROX** channels

**Storage:** -20°C and protected from light for at least 1 year. Minimize repeated freeze/thawing, consider preparation of aliquots.

## Prior to use:

### Safety Considerations

*Legionella* species are pathogenic to humans; hence isolation and identification must be carried out by trained laboratory personnel, in a properly equipped laboratory. Most activities can be carried out in a Containment Level 2 laboratory, however, in some cases the nature of the work with *L. pneumophila* may dictate full Containment Level 3 conditions. Care must be taken in the sterilization and disposal of all test materials. All procedures must be performed in the designated area of the laboratory. Disposable gloves must be worn during all procedures. All relevant National and Local Regulations must be met.

### Laboratory Set-Up

In order to prevent erroneous results due to contamination and/or degradation of DNA, it is strongly recommended to have dedicated materials, equipment and area for the DNA extraction, separated from the preparation of PCR procedures. Workflow in the laboratory should be unidirectional, starting with DNA isolation and moving to preparation of PCR amplification and finally to (q)PCR and Detection. Moreover, all molecular biology procedures, including DNA extraction, require qualified personnel to prevent risk of erroneous results and/or inadequate interpretation of results.

### Bacterial Enrichment

This kit is for the detection of DNA from *Legionella* spp. and *L. pneumophila* present in total DNA previously purified from a concentrate obtained by membrane filtration. Representative water samples (optionally including sediment or biofilms) should be prepared conform standard procedures and under GLP conditions<sup>[3]</sup>. Water samples should be concentrated according to ISO 11731:2017<sup>[4]</sup>.

### DNA extraction

Resuspend the filtrate in 1 ml of water and centrifuge at 10,000g-12,000g for 5 minutes. Discard the supernatant and add 200µl of Lysis Buffer (e.g. 10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0 containing 1mM EDTA and 0.1% Tween<sup>®</sup>20) to the pellet. Resuspend by vortexing or pipetting up and down in the tube. Incubate at 95°C-100°C for 10-15 minutes using a water bath or heating block. Centrifuge 10,000g-12,000g for 2 minutes and transfer the cleared supernatant to a new microtube. Use 2µl of the supernatant as template DNA sample in the qDetect protocol.

Alternatively, DNA is extracted from the filtrate using an appropriate kit for the extraction of DNA from Gram-negative bacteria (not included) using the manufacturer's instructions. The obtained highly-purified DNA, free of possible PCR inhibitors, can be used immediately or stored at -20°C for up to several years for future analysis. Use 2µl of the eluate as template DNA sample in the qDetect protocol.

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## References

1. Public Health England (2015) Identification of *Legionella* species. UK standards for Microbiology Investigations. ID 18 Issue 3
2. Benitez and Winchell (2013) Clinical application of a multiplex real-time PCR assay for simultaneous detection of *Legionella* species, *Legionella pneumophila*, and *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1. J. Clin. Microb. **51**:348-351
3. Public Health England (2016) Preparation of samples and dilutions, plating and sub-culture. Microbiology Services. Food, Water & Environmental Microbiology Standard Method FNES26 (F2); Version 2.
4. Water quality – Enumeration of *Legionella* (ISO 11731:2017)

## qDetect - Basic Protocol

Unambiguous detection of *Legionella* spp. (and of the internal control) requires a suitable calibration of the FAM, HEX/JOE and ROX channel. Please refer to the manufacturer's instruction of the real time PCR cyclers.

### 1. Mix for each qPCR reaction:

Component	Volume
LD Mix A	16 µl
LD Mix B	2 µl

In order to minimize risk of contamination, reagent loss and improve pipetting accuracy, we recommend to prepare a mastermix for multiple samples (N), always including a negative control, and a positive control, by mixing all components (N+2), except template DNA (nor control DNA), dividing the mixture equally into each PCR tube (18 µl each), briefly spin tubes (or tap down) and then add 2 µl template DNA or control DNA directly in the mixture.

### 2. Set-up qPCR cycling:

Nº cycles	Temp	Time	Acquisition
1x	50°C	2 min	No
1x	95°C	5 min	No
40x	95°C	30 sec	No
	56°C	30 sec	Yes
	72°C	30 sec	No

After an initial cycle of 2 min at 50°C and 5 min at 95°C (Enzyme activation and denaturation of template), cycle 40 times for 30 seconds at 95°C, 30 seconds at 56°C and 30 seconds at 72°C. Acquire data for the detection of *Legionella* spp. on the **FAM** channel and for the detection of *L.pneumophila* on the HEX/JOE channel. Probe to detect specific amplification of the internal control, which is included in LD Mix A and which is amplified simultaneously with the target DNA, should be detected in the **ROX** channel.

## Results

### Controls

In order to validate the assay, controls must have the following results. If the signal of one of the controls does not match, the whole experiment, including all samples, must be repeated.

Control	FAM channel	ROX channel
Negative Control	Ct=N/A	positive
Positive Control	positive	unimportant*

N/A = Not applicable (signal below threshold).

\*unimportant: is expected to be positive, however, if negative but other controls match expected results, this makes no difference

### Samples

For each sample, there are 4 possible outcomes, as summarized in the table below.

FAM channel	ROX channel	Result
positive	positive	positive
positive	Ct=N/A	positive
Ct=N/A	positive	negative
Ct=N/A	Ct=N/A	inhibition*

\*) in case both *Legionella* spp. (FAM channel), *L.pneumophila* (HEX/JOE channel) and Internal Control (ROX channel) have signals below threshold, but all the controls resulted in signals as expected, the sample must be retested, as the qPCR reaction was inhibited. Inhibition often is the result of a too high DNA concentration and therefore it is recommended that retesting should be carried out with a 10-fold dilution of the original DNA sample.