

## USE PROTOCOL FOR R & F® *ESCHERICHIA COLI* O157:H7 CHROMOGENIC PLATING MEDIUM

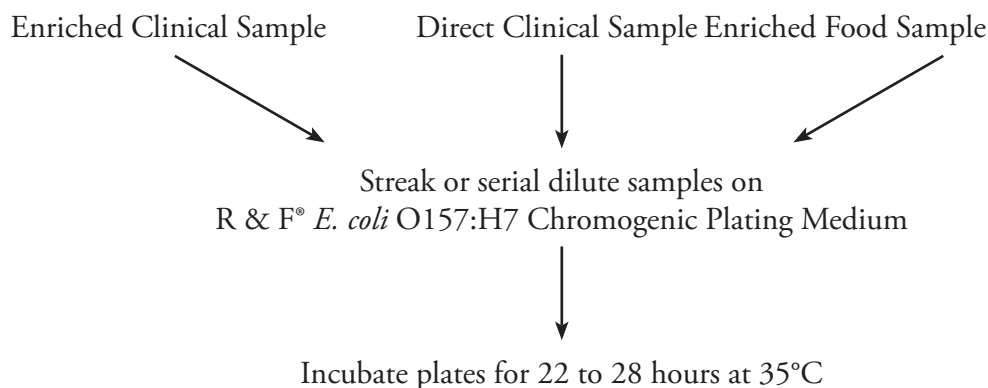
**Medium Preparation** – Follow directions on the label.

### **Storage and Stability – Powdered R & F® *E. coli* O157:H7 Chromogenic Plating Medium**

Powdered form is stable for at least four years from the date of manufacture when stored under refrigeration (2 to 8°C) in the original container. To ensure maximum stability of the powder, limit the number of bottle openings.

### **Storage and Stability – Prepared R & F® *E. coli* O157:H7 Chromogenic Plates**

Prepared plates should be refrigerated (2 to 8°C) in sealed, vented plastic bags in the dark. When stored in this manner, the prepared plates are stable for at least 45 days.



### **How to read the Plates**

Plates should be placed on a background to aid in viewing colony color, size, and morphology.

A positive reaction indicating a presumptive presence of *E. coli* O157:H7 is:

- 1) **blue-black colony with a black precipitate**  
(A turquoise to blue colony is possible for sorbitol positive strains.)
- 2) **domed colony approximately 1.5 to 2.5 mm in diameter**

Note: The medium background may turn various shades of yellow, orange, red, or pink. Although it is normal for the medium background surrounding an *E. coli* O157:H7 colony to turn red or pink, this change is not a useful diagnostic tool because non-*E. coli* colonies growing nearby may influence the background color surrounding the *E. coli* O157:H7 colonies. **Therefore, when reading the plates, study the colony color and morphology and disregard the background color of the medium surrounding the colonies.**