

FORENSIC BIOLOGY SEROLOGY PROCEDURES MANUAL

KASTLE-MEYER (KM) PRESUMPTIVE TESTING FOR BLOOD

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Kastle-Meyer (KM) Presumptive Testing for Blood

GENERAL

A Kastle-Meyer test may be performed directly on a cut out portion of a stain, an extract of a stain, or a “wipe” of the stained material. A wipe may be made using a piece of filter paper, thread, or swab. Wet the wipe with water, then rub over the stained area while still wet.

CONTROLS

Positive and negative controls must be used to test each lot/aliquot of reagent at least once per day and before any evidence items are tested. Blood must be used as a positive control. A drop of deionized water may be used for the negative control. If controls do not pass, inform the Quality Assurance Team immediately.

REAGENT

Dropper bottles (aliquots) of KM reagent are generally set aside for use during testing. If dropper bottles are empty, they should be refilled using the KM stock, and a layer of Zinc dust **MUST** be added to the bottom of the dropper bottles to prevent oxidation of the reagent.

PROCEDURE

1. Apply a drop of KM reagent if using a wipe. If performing directly on a cut out portion of a stain, use enough until sample is covered. Observe any color change.

A normal color reaction is a greenish/gray tint with the presence of possible blood.

A PINK COLOR HERE IS DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF AN OXIDIZING AGENT (e.g., a chemical oxidant), NOT BLOOD. If a pink color occurs at this point, the testing results should indicate “inconclusive.”

2. Add a drop of 3% hydrogen peroxide. An immediate pink color is a positive result.