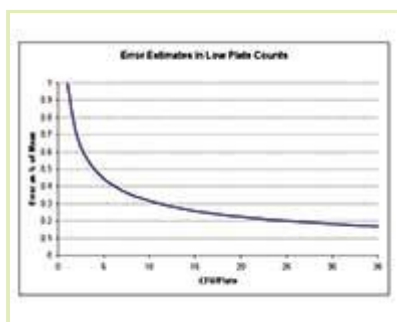


Accuracy of Plate Counts

By **Scott Sutton, Ph.D.** May 11, 2013 11:44 am EDT



Microbiological data are inherently variable. The “plate count” is at best an interpretation of an approximation of the number of cells present. The linear range for common bacterial counts on standard sized plates is established. Unusual plate count situations occur and should be covered by a standard operating procedure (SOP). Rounding and averaging rules can play a role in the deduced bacterial count. These rules should be in agreement with the United States Pharmacopeia and described in the SOP. Plate counting can have a significant impact on compliance with product specifications...

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