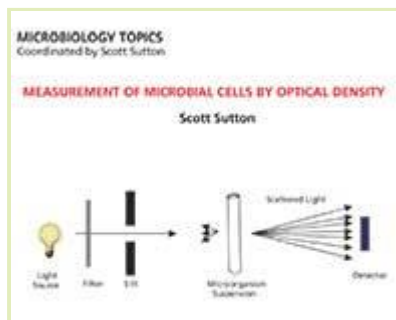


## Measurement of Microbial Cells by Optical Density

By **Scott Sutton, Ph.D.** May 11, 2013 2:48 pm EDT



Quality control (QC) microbiology tests require controlled levels of inocula and require fresh preparations of cells for those inocula. The concentration of cells in a suspension can be estimated by optical density, but this must be confirmed by plate count. The optical density readings against cell mass are specific to the microorganism species. The qualification of these readings must be confirmed after major maintenance to the bench top spectrophotometer (e.g., after replacement of the bulb).  
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