Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

Elsevier hereby grants permission to make all its COVID-19-related research that is available on the COVID-19 resource centre - including this research content - immediately available in PubMed Central and other publicly funded repositories, such as the WHO COVID database with rights for unrestricted research re-use and analyses in any form or by any means with acknowledgement of the original source. These permissions are granted for free by Elsevier for as long as the COVID-19 resource centre remains active.
Broad-spectrum microbicidal activity, toxicologic assessment, and materials compatibility of a new generation of accelerated hydrogen peroxide-based environmental surface disinfectant

Navid Omidbakhsh, BSc,a and Syed A. Sattar, PhDb
Oakville and Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Background: Concerns on human and environmental safety and label claims of many microbicides point to the need for safer, faster acting, and broad-spectrum substitutes. ACCEL TB, a 0.5% accelerated H2O2 (AHP)-based disinfectant described here, is a potential candidate.

Methods: ACCEL TB was tested for its broad-spectrum microbicidal activity, safety and materials compatibility using internationally accepted protocols. Activity against bacteria (Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecalis, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and Salmonella choleraesuis) was tested with the AOAC use-dilution method and the first tier of a quantitative carrier test (QCT-1). Mycobactericidal activity was tested against Mycobacterium bovis and Mycobacterium terrae using a quantitative suspension test (QST) and QCT-1, respectively. Fungicidal activity (Trichophyton mentagrophytes) was determined with the AOAC test and QCT-1. Activity against several enveloped and nonenveloped viruses was evaluated using the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) method No. E-1053. Sanitizing action was tested against 7 types of vegetative bacteria with method No. DIS/TSS-10. All microbicidal tests contained an added soil load; in all AOAC tests, it was 5% fetal bovine serum, and, in QCT-1, a mixture of 3 types of proteins in phosphate buffer was used instead. The methods to test for acute oral, dermal, inhalation toxicities, and dermal and eye irritation as well as skin sensitization complied with the requirements of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the US Environmental Protection Agency (OPPTS 870). Standard methods were also used to test compatibility with metals and plastics.

Results: At 20°C, the full-strength product was bactericidal and virucidal in 1 minute and mycobactericidal and fungicidal in 5 minutes. It was nonirritating to skin and eyes. The acute oral LD50 (lethal dose 50%) was >5000 mg/kg. It was compatible with 12 types of plastic and 3 out of 4 metals.

Conclusion: The tested formulation showed a high safety and materials compatibility profile in addition to being a fast acting, intermediate-level disinfectant. (Am J Infect Control 2006;34:251-7.)

Chemical disinfectants are widely used in infection control.1 Our reliance on them is increasing further in preventive strategies because of rampant antibiotic resistance and mounting threats from emerging and reemerging pathogens. This, in turn, is forcing a closer look at label claims of such products as well as human health and environmental safety of the chemicals in them.2 Therefore, safer and better substitutes are urgently needed. This report describes our findings on one such formulation.

METHODS

Formulation tested

This study tested ACCEL TB, a new generation of a patented (US. patent No. 6,346,279), 0.5% accelerated
H₂O₂ (AHP)-based, ready-to-use formulation (pH 3.0) designed for the disinfection of hard environmental surfaces. It contains very low levels of certain food-grade anionic and nonionic surfactants, which act in synergy with hydrogen peroxide to produce the desired microbicidal activity. The formulation is in the process of registration as an intermediate-level disinfectant in Canada and the United States.

Microbicidal activity
Internationally accepted methods were used to assess the microbicidal activity of the formulation against 21 different types of organism representing vegetative bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi, and viruses. The details on these organisms are given in Table 1.

Bactericidal activity
The use-dilution method (UDM) of AOAC International 3 and the first tier of the quantitative carrier test (QCT-1) of ASTM International 4 were used to test activity against vegetative bacteria. Escherichia coli, Acinetobacter baumannii, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecalis, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, and Salmonella choleraesuis were tested using UDM, and Staphylococcus aureus was tested using both UDM and QCT-1 methods. In UDM, stainless steel penicylinders were the carriers, and the performance criterion was no more than 1 culture-positive tube out of 60. In QCT-1, flat-bottomed glass vials were the carriers; the test organism (10 μL) was placed in each vial, dried, and covered with 1 mL of the test substance for the specified contact time at 20°C ± 1°C. At the end of the contact time, 9 mL neutralizer (Letheen broth with 0.1% sodium thiosulfate) was added to each vial and the test inoculum resuspended with the help of a magnetic stir bar.

The contents of the vial were then filtered through a membrane filter (Millipore Corp: 47 mm diameter; 0.2 μm pore size). The vial was rinsed several times with a total of no less than 100 mL saline, the rinses also passed through the same filter, and the filters were then placed on the agar surface of an appropriate recovery medium. The plates were held at the required temperature and for the desired length of time for the organism to grow. The colonies on the plates were counted and log₁₀ reductions in the viability titer of the test organism calculated. When the number of colony forming units (CFU) was expected to be high, the eluate was first subjected to 10-fold dilutions, and each sample was passed through a separate membrane filter, and the filters were placed on recovery media. The product performance criterion for QCT-1 was >6 log₁₀ in the viability as compared with the control carriers.

In UDM, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus aureus, and Salmonella choleraesuis were tested using 3 lots of the test solution; one of the lots was 60 days old. For the rest of the bacteria, only 2 lots were tested, and, in QCT-1, 1 lot was tested for Staphylococcus aureus.

Mycobacterical activity
The quantitative suspension test (QST) of Ascenzi et al 5 was used to test activity against Mycobacterium bovis-BCG, and QCT-1 was used with Mycobacterium terrae as the challenge organism. Two and 3 lots of the test solution were tested for QST and QCT-1, respectively.

Fungicidal activity
In the AOAC fungicidal activity test, 3 a suspension method, each tube with 5 mL test substance (equilibrated to 20°C ± 1°C in a water bath), received 0.5 mL Trichophyton mentagrophytes conidial suspension. The tube was agitated gently after adding the suspension and replaced into the water bath. At the end of the required contact time, a loopful was transferred to an appropriately labeled subculture tube containing 10 mL recovery broth. Secondary subcultures were performed >30 minutes after initial subculture by transferring one loopful from each subculture tube into a similarly labeled secondary subculture tube to rule out fungistatic action. The inoculated and control tubes were incubated for 44 to 76 hours at 25°C to 30°C. Subculture tubes were incubated for 10 days at 25°C to 30°C. The tubes were visually examined for growth. The acceptance criterion for fungicidal activity was no growth in all subculture tubes.

The QCT-1 method for fungicidal tests was similar to that described above for bactericidal and mycobacterial tests, and the performance criterion was also a >5 log₁₀ reduction. Two and 3 lots of the test solution were tested using the AOAC and the QCT-1, respectively.

Virucidal activity
ASTM standard number E-1053 6 was used to test for virucidal activity. Films of test virus were prepared by spreading 0.2 mL suspension uniformly over the inside bottom surface of 3 separate 100 × 15 mm glass Petri dishes. The plates were held at 20°C ± 1°C (relative humidity = 42%) until visibly dry (approximately 20 minutes). Each dried virus film was exposed to 2 mL test substance (control plates received an equivalent volume of a buffer) at 20°C for the desired contact time. The inoculated surface of the plates was scraped with a cell scraper to resuspend the contents of the inoculum, and the virus-disinfectant mixture was immediately passed through a Sephadex gel column following
**Table 1. Particulars on the organisms tested in this study**

| Organism (ATCC No.) | Medium/host cells for growth | Medium/host cells for recovery |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| *Staphylococcus aureus* (6538) | Synthetic broth | Neutralizer: Letheen broth with 1.0% sodium thiosulfate (primary), Letheen broth with 0.07% lecithin and 0.5% Tween 80 (secondary) |
| *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (15442) | Nutrient broth | Agar plate media: Trypticase soy agar (TSA) with 5% sheep blood |
| *Salmonella choleraesuis* (10708) | Synthetic broth | Agar plate media: Trypticase soy agar (TSA) with 5% sheep blood |
| Mucillin-resistant *S aureus* (MRSA) (33592) | Synthetic broth | Agar plate media: Trypticase soy agar (TSA) with 5% sheep blood |
| Vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus faecalis (VRE) (51575) | Fluid thioglycolate medium | TSA with 5% sheep blood |
| *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (51575) | Synthetic broth supplemented with 1.5% dextrose | Neutralizer: Letheen broth with 1.0% sodium thiosulfate (primary), Letheen broth with 0.07% lecithin and 0.5% Tween 80 (secondary) |
| *Acinetobacter baumannii* (19606) | Nutrient broth | Agar plate media: Trypticase soy agar (TSA) with 5% sheep blood |
| *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (4352) | Nutrient broth | Neutralizer: Letheen broth with 1.0% sodium thiosulfate (primary), Letheen broth with 0.07% lecithin and 0.5% Tween 80 (secondary) |
| *Mycobacterium bovis* (BCG) | 7H9 broth with Tween 80 | Neutralizer: Letheen broth with 1% sodium thiosulfate and 0.05% catalase |
| *Mycobacterium terrae* (15755) | 7H9 broth with ADC enrichment and glycerol | 7H11 agar neutralizer: Letheen broth with 0.1% sodium thiosulfate |
| *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* (9533) | Potato dextrose agar | Neutralizer: Letheen broth with 1.0% sodium thiosulfate (primary), Letheen broth with 0.07% lecithin and 0.5% Tween 80 (secondary) |
| Poliovirus type 1- Brunhilde (VR-1000) | Vero cells | Removal of microbeicide residual: Sephadex filtration |
| HIV-1, strain HTLV-IIIB | MT-2 cells (human CD4⁺ lymphocytes) | Media: RPMI 1640 supplemented with 15% heat-inactivated FBS + 10 μg/mL gentamicin + 100 units/mL penicillin + 2.5 μg/mL amphotericin B |
| Feline calicivirus strain F9-a surrogate for noroviruses (VR-782) | CRFK cells | Removal of microbeicide residual: Sephadex filtration |
| Human coronavirus 229E also a surrogate for the SARS virus (VR-740) | MRC-5 (human embryonic lung) cells | Media: E-MEM + 5% heat-inactivated FBS + 10 μg/mL gentamicin + 100 units/mL penicillin + 2.5 μg/mL amphotericin B |
| Herpes virus types 1 (VR-733) | Rabbit kidney (RK) cells | Removal of microbeicide residual: Sephadex filtration |
| Herpes virus types 2 (VR-734) | Rabbit kidney (RK) cells | Media: E-MEM + 5% FBS + 10 μg/mL gentamicin + 100 units/mL penicillin + 2.5 μg/mL amphotericin B |
| Human rhinovirus type 37 (VR-1147) | MRC-5 cells | Removal of microbeicide residual: Sephadex filtration |
| Human rotavirus Wa strain (2018) | MA-104 cells | Media: E-MEM + 10% FBS + 10 μg/mL gentamicin + 100 units/mL penicillin + 2.5 μg/mL amphotericin B |
| Human influenza virus A - PR-8 strain (VR-544) | Rhesus monkey kidney (RMK) cells | Removal of microbeicide residual: Sephadex filtration |
| Bovine viral diarrhea virus-surrogate for hepatitis C virus (VR-1422) | Cultures of bovine turbinate (BT) cells | Removal of microbeicide residual: Sephadex filtration |

*All percentage values given are vol/vol except for sodium thiosulfate, which was wt/vol.*
The product performance criterion was a 10-fold dilution series and assayed for infectious virus. The acceptance criterion for this test was no infectivity for the virus-disinfectant mixture at any dilution tested and a 3-log reduction beyond the cytotoxicity level. Two lots of the test solution were tested in all virucidal tests.

**Sanitizing activity test**

DIS/TSS-10 test method was used with glass squares (2.5 x 2.5 cm) in Petri plates. Each carrier received 20 μL of the 48-hour-old bacterial culture using a calibrated pipette. The inoculum was spread to within 0.13 inches (0.3 cm) of the edges of the carrier. All plates were then placed at 35°C to 37°C for 20 to 40 minutes in a chamber with 40% ± 2% relative humidity (RH). The carriers with the dried inoculum were placed at room temperature, and each plate with 5 carriers received 5 mL test substance for a contact time of 30 seconds. At the end of the contact time, 20 mL of an appropriate neutralizer solution was used to arrest the activity of the test substance. One-milliliter volumes of the eluates were assayed for viable organisms by incubating the inoculated tubes for 48 hours at 35°C to 37°C. The product performance criterion was a >3 log_{10} (>99.9%) reduction in numbers of viable organism as compared with the carrier quantitation control. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were tested using 3 lots of the test solution, including a 60-day-old sample, and the rest of the bacteria were tested using 2 lots.

**Soil load**

In the AOAC tests, fetal bovine serum (Gibco, Burlington, ON) at a final concentration of 5% was used as a soil load. In QCT-1, a tripartite soil load prepared in phosphate buffer was used instead. Five hundred microliters test inoculum was prepared by adding to each 340 μL of the microbial suspension 25 μL, 100 μL, and 35 μL of stock solutions of 5% bovine serum albumin (Sigma, St. Louis, MO), 0.4% bovine mucin (Sigma, St. Louis, MO), and 5% tryptone (Ditco, Detroit, MI), respectively; the total protein content of this soil load is roughly equal to that in 5% bovine serum.

**Neutralization of microbicidal activity**

Letheen broth (Difco) with 1.0% (wt/vol) sodium thiosulfate was used as the neutralizer in the QCT-1 testing. Letheen broth with 0.07% lecithin and 0.5% Tween 80 was used as the secondary neutralizing subculture medium.

**Controls**

Suitable controls were incorporated to check for sterility of media, reagents and carriers, effectiveness of the microbicide neutralization procedure, and carrier population counts.

**Toxicity tests**

All toxicity tests were performed at Stillmeadow Laboratory (Sugar Land, TX) using the methods of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (OPPTS 870). One lot of the test solution was used for all toxicity tests.

**Materials compatibility**

ASTM standards G-110 and G-311 were used to test the compatibility of the formulation with plastics and metals. The plastics tested were high-density polyethylene (HDPE), low-density polyethylene (LDPE), polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon), polypropylene (PP), acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and polysulfone. The metals tested were brass, cold rolled steel, aluminum, and stainless steel.

**RESULTS**

**Bactericidal activity of full-strength ACCEL TB**

As shown in Table 2, 7 different species of vegetative bacteria were tested using the UDM, and all lots of the product proved to be bactericidal in 1 minute, at 20°C, in the presence of 5% serum. The number of viable organisms on the carriers was also determined and ranged between 1.0 x 10^5 and 5.0 x 10^6 CFU/carrar. Activity of the test formulation was also assessed against *S. aureus* using the QCT-1. Here again, the contact time was 1 minute at 20°C. With a baseline titer of 8.95 x 10^6 CFU/control carriers, no viable organisms were detected on any of the 6 test carriers, giving a reduction of nearly 7 log_{10}.
Table 3. Fungicidal activity of full-strength ACCEL TB as tested against Trichophyton mentagrophytes using QCT-1 with a contact time of 5 minutes at 20°C

| Lot number | CFU/control carrier (log10) | CFU/test carrier (log10) | Log10 reduction |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 3635reg    | 8.83 × 10^5                 | 3                        | 5.47            |
| 3636reg    | 8.83 × 10^5                 | 2                        | 5.64            |
| 3637reg    | 8.83 × 10^5                 | 2                        | 5.64            |

Table 4. Virucidal activity of full-strength ACCEL TB in 1 minute at 20°C (ASTM E-1053)

| Virus                                | Infective units of virus on control carriers (log10) | Test substance cytoxicity (log10) | Log10 reduction in infectivity |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Poliovirus type I (Sabin)            | 4.75                                                  | <0.5                              | >4.25                         |
| HIV type I                           | 5.5                                                   | <1.5                              | >4                            |
| Feline calicivirus                   | 6.75                                                  | <0.5                              | >6.25                         |
| Human coronavirus 229E               | 4.5                                                   | <0.5                              | >4                            |
| Influenza A virus (PR-8)             | 5.25                                                  | <0.5                              | >4.75                         |
| Human rhinovirus type 37             | 4.75                                                  | <0.5                              | >4.25                         |
| Human rotavirus (Wa)                 | 5.5                                                   | <0.5                              | >5                            |
| Herpes virus type 1                  | 5.25                                                  | <0.5                              | >4.75                         |
| Herpes virus type 2                  | 4.75                                                  | <0.5                              | >4.25                         |
| Bovine viral diarrhea virus          | 4.5                                                   | <0.5                              | >4.38                         |
| (surrogate for hepatitis C virus)    |                                                       |                                   |                               |
| Bovine viral diarrhea virus          | 4.75                                                  | <0.5                              | >4.47                         |
| (surrogate for hepatitis C virus)-confirmatory assay |                                                       |                                   |                               |

Mycobactericidal activity

Two lots (3646 and 3647) of the test formulation were tested against M. bovis using QST. The level of challenge was approximately 1.3 × 10^9 CFU/mL. The formulation was able to reduce the viability titer of the test organisms to undetectable levels (>6.8 log_{10} reduction) after a contact time of only 5 minutes at 20°C in the presence of 5% serum.

The mycobactericidal activity of the test formulation was further confirmed with 3 lots of the formulation using QCT-1 and M. terrae as the challenge. The level of challenge here was 2.4 × 10^6 CFU/control carrier. It was able to reduce the viability titer of the test organisms to undetectable levels after a contact time of only 5 minutes at 20°C. This represented a reduction of approximately 6.38 log_{10}. Therefore, the test formulation was able to meet the performance criteria for both methods used to assess mycobactericidal activity.

Table 5. Sanitizing activity of ACCEL TB in 30 seconds at 20°C

| Test microorganism | Lot number of formulation | Count/control carrier (log10) | Count/test carrier (log10) | Log10 reduction |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Staphylococcus aureus | 3646                     | 4.1 × 10^5                   | <30.2                     | >4              |
| Staphylococcus aureus | 3647                     | 9.6 × 10^5                   | <30.2                     | >4              |
| Staphylococcus aureus | 4635                     | 2.6 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >4              |
| Klebsiella pneumoniae | 3646                     | 1.7 × 10^7                   | <30.2                     | >5              |
| Klebsiella pneumoniae | 3647                     | 1.3 × 10^7                   | <30.2                     | >3              |
| Klebsiella pneumoniae | 4635                     | 3.7 × 10^7                   | <30.2                     | >5              |
| Salmonella choleraesuis | 3646                    | 9.4 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >5              |
| Salmonella choleraesuis | 3647                    | 9.4 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >5              |
| Pseudomonas aeruginosa | 3635                    | 2.5 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >3              |
| Pseudomonas aeruginosa | 3646                    | 2.5 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >3              |
| E. coli O157:H7 | 3647                     | 9.6 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >5              |
| E. coli O157:H7 | 3646                     | 9.6 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >5              |
| MRSA | 3646                     | 2.0 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >4              |
| MRSA | 3647                     | 2.0 × 10^6                   | <30.2                     | >4              |
| VRE | 3646                     | 1.2 × 10^5                   | <30.2                     | >3              |
| VRE | 3647                     | 1.2 × 10^5                   | <30.2                     | >3              |

Fungicidal activity

Two lots of the test formulation were tested for their fungicidal activity using the AOAC suspension test. The level of challenge was 8.5 × 10^7 CFU, and both lots were able to reduce the viability titer of the organism to undetectable levels in 5 minutes at 20°C in the presence of 5% serum.

As shown in Table 3, 3 additional lots of the formulation were tested for their fungicidal activity using QCT-1. The level of challenge was 8.85 × 10^5 CFU/carrier, and all lots of the product were able to reduce the viability titer of the fungal conidia by at least 5.47 log_{10} in 5 minutes at 20°C in the presence of the tripartite soil load.

Virucidal activity

As shown in Table 4, both lots of the product tested proved to be virucidal in 1 minute at 20°C in the presence of 5% serum.

Sanitizing activity

As shown in Table 5, all lots of the product were able to work as a sanitizer in 30 seconds at 20°C in the presence of 5% serum, against specified bacteria.

Toxicity

The findings of toxicity testing (Table 6) showed the tested formulation to fall into EPA toxicity category IV, making it exempt from any precautionary statements on the label.
Table 6. Summary of toxicity tests on one lot of ACCEL TB

| Test method                              | Results                                      |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Acute oral toxicity study (UDP) on rats   | There was no mortality in the study LD₅₀ >5000 mg/kg |
| Acute dermal toxicity study in rabbits   | There was no mortality in the study LD₅₀ >5050 mg/kg |
| Acute inhalation toxicity study in rats   | There was no mortality in the study LC₅₀ >2.59 mg/L |
| Acute eye irritation study in rabbits     | Nonirritating (the product is assigned to toxicity category IV) |
| Acute dermal irritation study in rabbits  | Slightly irritating (the product is assigned to toxicity category IV) |
| Skin sensitization (local lymph node assay in mice) | The product is not a sensitizer |

Materials compatibility

None of the 12 types of plastics tested were affected by the test formulation after being exposed to the test solution for 2900 cycles of disinfection contact time. Among the metals, only brass showed minor to moderate damage, after 7200 cycles of disinfection contact time, whereas all others remained unaffected.

DISCUSSION

Chemical disinfectants constitute the backbone of infection control. Fourteen types of chemicals singly or in various combinations are in over 90% of the products currently used for this purpose, and several of them either have a rate of microbial kill too slow for field use and/or a poor safety profile.

Hydrogen peroxide is among the oldest microbicides known, and it is generated naturally in many settings. However, it is relatively unstable by its very nature and somewhat slow acting when used on its own. Both of these weaknesses have been addressed in that it is now possible to produce highly stabilized forms of H₂O₂ in solution and also speed up its microbicidal action. Furthermore, its corrosivity has been tamed, thus widening its materials compatibility. The AHP technology has combined these developments to enhance the potential of H₂O₂ as a microbicide, resulting in formulations for a variety of applications.

The stabilizers, surfactants, and other excipients in these formulations have a high safety and biodegradability profile and are free from aquatic toxicants such as nonyl phenol ethoxylates (NPEs) or alkyl phenyl ethoxylates (APEs). The findings summarized here further substantiate the desirable attributes of the AHP-based formulation evaluated.

The formulation’s microbicidal activity was assessed using relevant AOAC and ASTM protocols, and, in the case of fungicidal and mycobactericidal activities, the findings with the suspension test were confirmed with the more stringent QCT-1. As shown in Table 1, the vegetative bacteria tested represented a wide array of nosocomial pathogens. The viruses tested also included important nosocomial pathogens or their accepted surrogates. Although certain of the enveloped viruses tested are not known to spread through contaminated environmental surfaces, they were included to ensure that ACCEL TB, based on a relatively new technology, is successful in dealing with both nonenveloped and enveloped varieties. ASTM protocol No. E-1053 was used for this purpose because it is currently the only protocol accepted by the US Environmental Protection Agency for submission of data for virucidal activity.

All evaluations for microbicidal activity were performed with an added soil load in microbial suspensions. The soil load was either 5% serum at its final concentration or the tripartite mixture of proteins. Such soil loads not only simulate the presence of body fluids but also add to the level of stringency of the methods for added confidence in the test data.

The initial fungicidal tests were based on AOAC’s suspension protocol. Because this was considered a weaker challenge to the test formulation, further testing was carried out using QCT-1 to ascertain properly that ACCEL TB has good fungicidal activity.

QCT-1 used in some of the tests reported here offers several advantages over the existing AOAC methods. It has been designed to (1) permit the determination of the exact number of CFU remaining after the drying of the inoculum; (2) avoid wash off of any of the test organism; (3) allow complete recovery of the inoculum from the carrier surface; (4) arrest the test substance’s activity by dilution immediately at the end of the contact time; (5) in the case of bactericidal, mycobactericidal, and fungicidal tests, capture all the cells of the test organisms on a membrane filter before and after exposure to the test product; (6) remove any residual microbicidal activity by a thorough rinsing of the membrane filter; (7) incorporate glass inserts to eliminate any false-positive results because of the generation of microaerosols in the carriers; and (8) give a precise determination of log₁₀ reduction in CFU of the test organism after exposure to the product under test. It therefore, eliminates the deficiencies associated with the AOAC methods. Because the QCT-1 meets the requirements for microbicide testing as in the Canadian General Standards Board data based on it are acceptable for product registration in Canada.

In summary, the AHP-based environmental surface disinfectant tested in this study proved to be a broad-spectrum and fast-acting microbicide with high safety and materials compatibility profiles. It, therefore,
addresses many of the concerns relating to other types of actives in wide use in infection control today.\textsuperscript{2,19-21}

References
1. Block SS, editor. Disinfection, sterilization, and preservation. 5th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2000.
2. Sattar SA. Current issues in testing, selection and use of microbicides in infection control: a critical review. Aust Infect Control 2004;9:84-100.
3. AOAC International. Disinfectants. Chapter 6. AOAC official methods of analysis. Washington, DC: AOAC International; 1998.
4. ASTM International. Standard quantitative carrier test method to evaluate the bactericidal, fungicidal, mycobactericidal and sporicidal potencies of liquid chemical germicides (E-2111). Vol. 11.05. Conshohocken, PA: ASTM; 2005.
5. Ascenzi JM, Ezzell RJ, Wendt TM. A more accurate method for measurement of tuberculocidal activity of disinfectants. Appl Environ Microbiol 1987;53:2189-92.
6. ASTM International. Standard test method for efficacy of virucidal agents intended for inanimate environmental surfaces (E-1053). Vol. 11.05. Conshohocken, PA: ASTM; 2005.
7. ASTM International. Standard test method for neutralization of virucidal agents in virucidal efficacy evaluations (E-1482). Vol. 11.05. Conshohocken, PA: ASTM; 2005.
8. US Environmental Protection Agency, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, efficacy data requirements for sanitizer test (for inanimate, nonfood contact surfaces), DIS/TSS-10, January 7, 1982. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office.
9. Springthorpe VS, Sattar SA. Quantitative carrier tests to assess the germicidal activities of chemicals: rationales and procedures. ISBN 0-88927-298-0 Centre for Research on Environmental Microbiology (CREM), University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada. 98 pages (October, 2003). Available from: QCTmanual@webbertraining.com.
10. ASTM International. Standard practice for conventions applicable to electrochemical measurements in corrosion testing (G3-03). Vol. 03.02. Conshohocken, PA: ASTM; 2005.
11. ASTM International. Standard practice for preparing, cleaning, and evaluating corrosion test specimens (G1-03). Vol. 03.02. Conshohocken, PA: ASTM; 2005.
12. Best M, Springthorpe VS, Sattar SA. Feasibility of a combined carrier test for disinfectants: studies with a mixture of five types of microorganisms. Am J Infect Control 1994;22:152-62.
13. Sattar SA, Adegbunrin O, Ramirez J. Combined use of simulated reuse and quantitative carrier tests to assess high-level disinfection: experiments with an accelerated hydrogen peroxide-based formulation. Am J Infect Control 2002;30:449-57.
14. Springthorpe VS, Sattar SA. Carrier tests to assess microbial activities of chemical disinfectants for use on medical devices and environmental surfaces. J AOAC Int 2005;88:182-201.
15. Russell AD, Hugo VB, Alyiffe GAI. Principles and practice of disinfection, preservation and sterilization. 3rd edition Winnipeg, Manitoba: Blackwell Science; 1999.
16. Environmental Protection Agency. Robust summaries and test plans. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office; 2004.
17. ASTM International. Standard quantitative disk carrier test method for determining the bactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal, mycobactericidal, and sporicidal activities of liquid chemical germicides (E-2197). Vol. 11.05. Conshohocken, PA: ASTM; 2005.
18. Canadian General Standards Board. Assessment of efficacy of antimicrobial agents for use on environmental surfaces and medical devices. Document No. CAN/CGSB-2.161-97. Ottawa, ON, Canada. 1997.
19. Reigart JR, Roberts JR. Recognition and management of pesticide poisonings. 5th edition. EPA No. 735-R-98-003. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office; 1999.
20. Barrett T. Toxicological and environmental issues in the selection and use of chemical germicides. In: Rutala WA, editor. Chemical germicides in health care. ISBN 0-921317-48-4. Morin Heights, QC, Canada: Polyscience Publications, Inc. 1995. p. 99-109.
21. Daschner F. The hospital and pollution: role of the hospital epidemiologist in protecting the environment. In: Wenzel RP, editor. Prevention and control of nosocomial infections. Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins; 1997.