

## **Enumeration of probiotics in finished formats**

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Recent years have seen a growing interest in dietary supplements (DS), food and beverage products that contain probiotics. For this type of products, there is a need to ensure that the level of probiotics meet the specified content claim at the end of shelf life.

Multiple factors will influence the survival of probiotics in different DS, food and beverages. The inherent stability of different strains, acidity and water-activity of different products are only a few of these factors. In addition, accurate determination of the viable count of probiotics in different products may be a challenge.

This presentation will elaborate on (1) the different factors that influence the stability of probiotics in DS products; (2) Formulation of DS products with probiotics alone or in combination with botanical extracts; and (3) Culture methods used to enumerate probiotics and the variability in results of testing, when conducted by different labs, will be discussed and strategies to assess and mitigate this variability will be explored.