

## Media Type - Tryptone Soya Agar (TSA)

**Organisms & morphology:** Tryptone Soya Agar will support the growth of a wide range of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria if incubated under the right conditions. A typical set of control organisms and the phenotypic identification associated with these are:

| Organism                   | Morphology |           |                | Gram     |       | Biochemical test |          |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------|------------------|----------|
|                            | Edge       | Shape     | Colour         | Gram     | Shape | Catalase         | Oxidase  |
| Staphylococcus aureus      | Smooth     | Regular   | Yellow / Cream | Positive | Cocci | Positive         | Negative |
| Staphylococcus epidermidis | Smooth     | Regular   | Yellow / Cream | Positive | Cocci | Positive         | Negative |
| Escherichia coli           | Smooth     | Regular   | Cream          | Negative | Rods  | Positive         | Negative |
| Bacillus subtilis          | Irregular  | Irregular | Cream          | Positive | Rods  | Positive         | Variable |
| Pseudomonas aeruginosa     | Smooth     | Regular   | Cream          | Negative | Rods  | Positive         | Positive |



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| Fungal                   | Morphology |           |                |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
|                          | Edge       | Shape     | Colour         |
| Candida albicans         | Smooth     | Regular   | Cream          |
| Aspergillus brasiliensis | Irregular  | Irregular | White to black |



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**Regulatory references:** TSA is a Harmonised Pharmacopoeia medium and as such is mentioned in the BP/EP/JP, as well as the US Pharmacopoeia.

### EP Chapter Ref 2.6.12 Microbial examination of non-sterile products: Microbial enumeration tests

| Recommended Culture Media   | Property         | Micro-organisms  | Incubation Time & Temp |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--|------------------------|
| Casein Soyabean Digest Agar | Growth promotion | Bacillus subtilis<br>Pseudomonas aeruginosa<br>Staphylococcus aureus | 30-35°C for < 3 days   |
|                             | Growth promotion | Candida albicans<br>Aspergillus brasiliensis                         | 30-35°C for < 5 days   |



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