

Client Perspective:

BioFinder in Australia and New Zealand

BioFinder



In July 2014, W R & D Wells (AUS) and Wells Hygiene (NZ) launched a technology new to the Australian and New Zealand manufacturing landscape – BioFinder. This technology identifies biofilm produced by gram negative & positive pathogenic bacterial populations and has important benefits for users. The following notes provide a summary of the background, application and client feedback since launch.

What is BioFinder?

BioFinder is a liquid application for surfaces that specifically identifies biofilm resulting from gram negative & positive pathogenic bacteria (listeria, salmonella, and staphylococcus among others). It is an excellent new tool for the food risk monitoring and prevention program in high risk operations.



How is BioFinder different to other products and techniques?

- There is **no confusion** as to what the BioFinder detects. A positive test result **cannot** be caused by un-harmful/unrelated organic soils or chemical residues.
- BioFinder does not claim to identify results that may or may not present a problem. It only identifies the **biofilm from gram negative & positive pathogenic bacteria**. Just as a titration gives a **known result**, so does BioFinder provide a known result of presence or absence. This quantitative outcome is valuable to inform Hygienists, Production Managers, and QA Practitioners without the cost or time lag of high volumes of swabs.

How do I use it?

- The application procedure is very user friendly – simply apply as a solid stream from the trigger spray or squirt nozzle to the surface to be tested.
- BioFinder identifies biofilm through a fast visual reaction which everyone from highly technical staff to generally low skilled employees can see and understand.
- The visual assessment supports decisions on two counts:
 - *If there is no reaction there is relief at no pathogenic bacteria biofilm being present and no corrective action is required.*
 - *If a colour change and foaming reaction occurs then it's known immediately that corrective action is required.*

Contact Wells to arrange an obligation free **BioFinder demonstration**

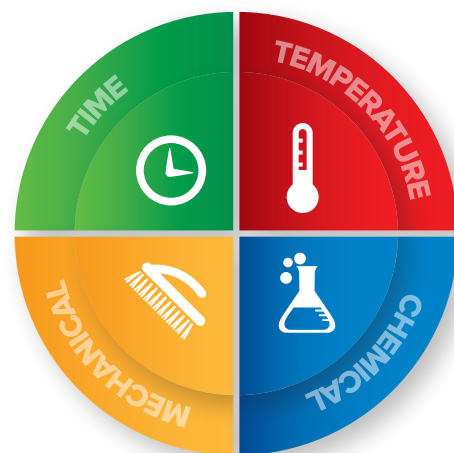
What benefits are users experiencing?

- BioFinder empowers operations and risk management staff where they have to manage risk by complying with FSANZ to 'systematically examine all of its food handling operations in order to identify the potential hazards....systematically identify the potential hazards that may reasonably be expected to occur.....provide systematic monitoring' (taken from FSANZ 3.2.1 Division 2 sections 3,4,5).
- BioFinder is providing an aid in 'hygiene standard operating procedure' validation programs. It is quick, inexpensive per use and effective where an unknown source of target biofilm bacteria needs to be found.
- BioFinder is recommended as part of regular GMP audits, or as part of Root Cause Analysis investigations. It therefore makes good sense to include BioFinder in weekly validation programs especially in high risk areas of high risk operations.
- BioFinder's cost effectiveness is evidenced by well over approx. 1200 applications per box of 3 x 500mL bottles.
- BioFinder is easily stored in convenient packaging. It does not require special requirements such as DG storage or segregation.
- It can be used anywhere in the manufacturing environment to identify biofilm. Some such area may include:
 - Cutting boards, drains, sinks and hand dispensers.
 - Production equipment such as knives and gloves, silo ports seals and attachments.
 - Pipework valves and fittings, cooling towers and fresh water sources, laboratory bench surfaces. .
 - Conveyor belts (the application surface is up to the risk assessment practitioner and their knowledge of their facility).

Cleaning Protocols

BioFinder presents the opportunity to review cleaning protocols. Excessive cost from excessive hygiene activities can be systematically reviewed, providing clear evidence that frequency or strength can be considered in light of the need and risk.

Likewise areas that should be improved because biofilm is identified are easily shown, leading to additional or improved cleaning protocols. *These may include one or several of the "4 FACTORS OF CLEANING":*



Fits with Six Sigma / DMAIC Management Systems

User feedback indicates BioFinder provides real time decision support information, which can feed into the "Define > Measure > Analyze > Improve > Control" process in organizations where 5S and / or Six Sigma programs are implemented. Therefore, BioFinder can form a key component of Continuous Improvement Programs in organisations.

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