

## **Comparison of rodac plates and petrifilm™ to assess the microbial contamination of food-contract surfaces/ importance of additives**

*Sylvie Deckers, Jean G. Detry, Christine Anceau and Marianne Sindic*

*Gembloux faculté universitaire des sciences Agronomique  
Passage Des Deportes - 5030 Gembloux – tel 081 62 22 73 – fax 081 61 42 22*

Assessing the microbial contamination level of surfaces is critical in environments where high hygiene levels are required. This is typically the case in food and catering industries or in hospitals and medical appliances. On a routine base, RODAC plates and other techniques based on microbial transfer are generally used to quantify the microbial load of a surface. There are however still polemics on the limitations and performances of these techniques arising from the fact that the initial contamination level of a surface is never known and due to the difficulty of reproducing field conditions in laboratory environments. The present study brings further information in that direction.