



# EUCAST

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL  
SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

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## To European laboratories

During 2009 EUCAST was tasked with developing a disk test calibrated to the recently harmonised European breakpoints. After consulting all European countries in a questionnaire it was decided to build the new agar diffusion test on known and frequently used systems – 0.5 MacFarland inoculum, Mueller Hinton Agar and paper disks. Disk diffusion breakpoints were published in December 2009. These will be tentative during 2010. Ongoing work will undoubtedly result in minor changes and refinements to the method, e.g. ceftazidime and cefepime clinical breakpoints are likely to be changed slightly during the spring of 2010 and disk correlates will be changed accordingly.

We have offered to help manufacturers of AST materials and systems in any way we can; but have made it clear that EUCAST does not validate or endorse particular commercial systems for use with EUCAST breakpoints". Manufacturers have been advised to undertake and publish scientific evaluations of their products. At ECCMID in 2009 such evaluations were presented and more are scheduled for ECCMID in 2010.

Users of European breakpoints are advised to consult with EUCAST before choosing AST systems other than:

1. MIC determination using European breakpoints
2. The EUCAST disk diffusion test method or national disk diffusion methods (e.g. CA-SFM and BSAC) calibrated to European breakpoints
3. Automated susceptibility testing with systems validated for use with European breakpoints.

Users of European breakpoints are advised to require documentation that AST systems will perform according to the standards determined by EUCAST.

The letter distributed by Rosco Diagnostica questioning the validity of EUCAST breakpoints for users of Rosco tablets has been withdrawn. Documentation received from Rosco is now being perused by EUCAST.

We remind users that in the terminology of EUCAST:

- dash (-) in the breakpoint table denotes "inappropriate drug – breakpoints denied". Should there be a need for this antibiotic to appear in the report it is appropriate to include an "R" without testing.
- "IE" in the EUCAST tables denotes "insufficient evidence – breakpoints denied". Should there be a need for this antibiotic to appear in the report it is appropriate to include an MIC without interpretation or with information on EUCAST non-species related breakpoints

Gunnar Kahlmeter, EUCAST