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Short communication

### Effect of acidified sodium chlorite treatment on chicken carcasses processed in South Australia

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#### Abstract

A trial on the effectiveness of acidified sodium chlorite (ASC) on *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* was undertaken on chicken carcasses after they exited the screw chiller of a commercial premises in Adelaide, Australia. On untreated carcasses mean log<sub>10</sub> total viable count (25 °C) was 2.78/cm<sup>2</sup> compared with 1.23/cm<sup>2</sup> on treated carcasses. Prevalence of *E. coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* was 100%, 90% and 100% respectively, on untreated carcasses and 13%, 10% and 23% respectively, on treated carcasses. The distributions of *E. coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* (mean log<sub>10</sub> of positive samples) from untreated carcasses were 1.55, 1.80 and 1.59/cm<sup>2</sup> respectively, and 0.64, 1.85 and 2.21/cm<sup>2</sup> respectively, on treated carcasses. On untreated carcasses *S. Sofia* and *S. Infantis* were isolated from 73% and

carcasses. On untreated carcasses *S. Sofia* and *S. Infantis* were isolated from 75% and 37% of carcasses, respectively; only *S. Sofia* was isolated from treated carcasses. The significant reductions in both prevalence and concentration demonstrated in the present trial indicate that ASC is a risk management option immediately available to the poultry industry.



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## Keywords

Acidified sodium chlorite; Chicken carcasses; *Salmonella*; *Campylobacter*; Risk management

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