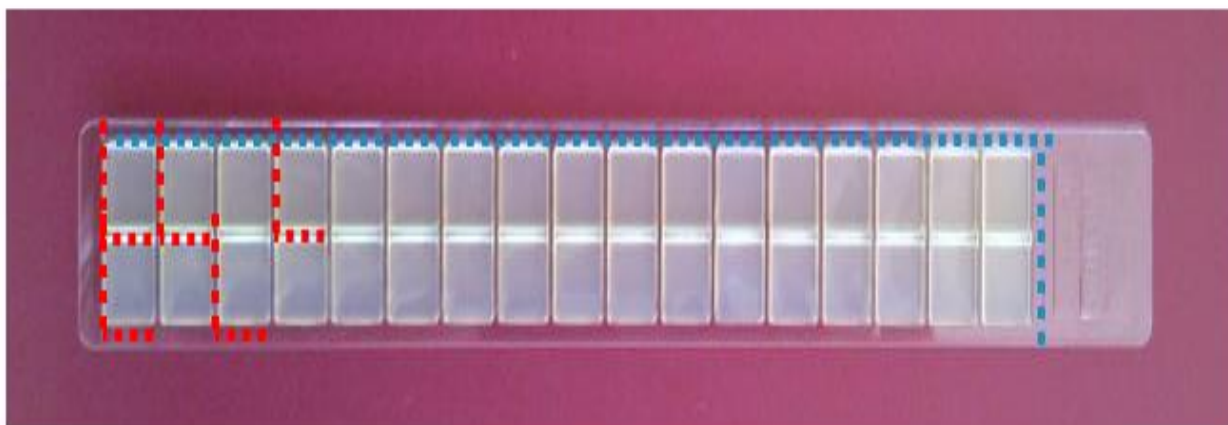


## Colony Counting Guidance on Agar Strip

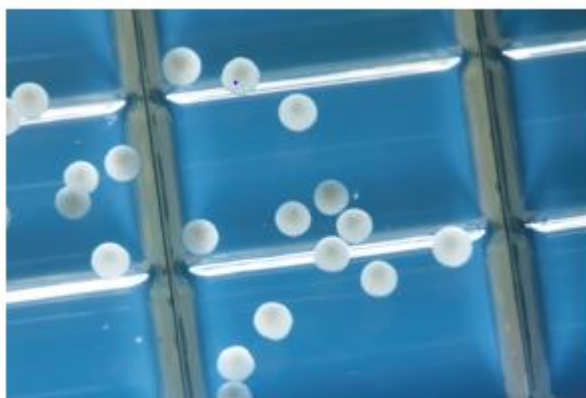
- The contact slide provides a defined contact area of 25 cm<sup>2</sup>.
- Every square is counted with identical strategy
- Recommendation (adapted from strategies with hemacytometers). See Picture 1 & 2 below.
  - (1) Count colonies on every square plus the gaps surrounding the square on two sides (red dotted line as examples) → when summarizing all counted squares, all gaps are analyzed but double-counting is avoided
  - (2) Count the gaps missing in the outer edges of the agar strip (blue dotted line in this example)
- Colonies counted on the agar strip refer to the volume of the air sample and not to the size of the surface. Typically, the counted colonies are related to a 1000 L sampling volume, but other volumes may be sampled.
- Dependent on the number of microbes care must be taken to avoid double counting of organisms or miss colonies that reside in the gaps of the segments



Picture 1:



Picture 2:



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