

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hygiena Introduces BAX® System *E. coli* O157:H7 Exact +S Assay, Enabling Proactive Contamination Investigations and Smarter Process Monitoring in the Beef Industry**

*The new assay combines AOAC-validated *E. coli* O157:H7 detection with proprietary S-target technology to uncover contamination patterns that conventional O157:H7 monitoring alone may miss, support plant benchmarking, and drive more targeted preventive actions.*

**CAMARILLO, Calif., October 30, 2026** – Hygiena®, a global leader in food safety diagnostics, today announced the release of the **BAX® System *E. coli* O157:H7 Exact +S Real-Time PCR Assay**, a new molecular solution designed specifically for beef processors. The assay combines trusted detection of ***E. coli* O157:H7** with Hygiena's proprietary **S-target technology**. By providing a broader molecular indicator of contamination patterns, the S-target helps processors identify potentially overlooked high-event periods, investigate underlying process failures, and assess the effectiveness of preventive interventions.

*E. coli* O157:H7 remains one of the most significant foodborne pathogens associated with beef production worldwide. Even low levels of contamination can result in serious illness, costly recalls, and reputational damage, making effective monitoring and detection essential components of a comprehensive food safety program.

The s-target is a proprietary genetic marker that is commonly present in a broader group of *E. coli* strains, including non-pathogenic strains that grow in the same environment as *E. coli* O157:H7 strains and is detected more frequently than *E. coli* O157:H7. By trending S-target results across production lines, shifts, sampling locations, and facilities can also help identify recurring contamination patterns, benchmark plant performance, prioritize investigations for continuous improvement and corrective actions. When combined with historical testing results and relevant operational data, these insights can support earlier recognition of potential contamination events and more informed risk-based decisions.

*"Food manufacturers need more than accurate pathogen detection. They need information that helps them better understand and manage risk throughout their process," said Steve Nason, CEO of Hygiena. "With the BAX® System *E. coli* O157:H7 Exact +S assay, we're moving beyond pathogen detection alone. By identifying contamination patterns that might otherwise go unnoticed, processors can investigate potential failures earlier, strengthen preventive controls, and continuously improve food safety performance."*

The BAX System *E. coli* O157:H7 Exact +S assay integrates seamlessly into existing BAX System workflows, allowing customers to leverage their current testing infrastructure while gaining additional operational insights. By combining validated pathogen detection with S-target process-monitoring biomarker, the assay enables a more comprehensive understanding of contamination dynamics and provides actionable information to strengthen preventive food safety programs.

**We create innovative diagnostics for a healthier world**

**About Hygiena®**

At Hygiena®, our mission is to create innovative diagnostics for a healthier world. We develop, produce and provide best-in-class One Health Diagnostics® solutions from seed to plate to our global customer bases. As one of the few organizations in the world to uniquely focus on food safety throughout the value chain, we maintain the belief that human health is closely connected to the health of animals in our shared environment. Our rapid molecular tests and analysis tools for food and beverage safety, veterinary diagnostics and environmental monitoring help prevent illness, save lives and contribute to making the world a safer place. As the leaders in rapid diagnostic tests, we provide solutions that are robust, easy to use and accurate globally, backed by industry-leading customer service and support. To help organizations make smarter, data-driven decisions, SureTrend® Food Safety Management Software along with the newest addition to the Hygiena® portfolio, KLEANZ® Sanitation Management, transform ATP, PCR, sanitation, and environmental data into clear, actionable insights, strengthening compliance, improving quality programs, and supporting continuous improvement. With a sizeable global presence, Hygiena® is headquartered in Camarillo, California, with numerous offices and customer application centers in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia. We also partner with over 180 distributors in more than 100 countries worldwide. Support us in our mission for a healthier world. Visit [hygiena.com](http://hygiena.com)

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