

12. Control strains

Question	Comment
There are gaps in the table; when will data be available?	<p>The BSAC has a rolling programme for devising acceptable ranges for control strains. Approximately 30 laboratories around the UK have agreed to test control/antibiotic combinations when requested. Zone data from these centres is combined with data obtained at the BSAC Standardized Method Development Centre (SMDC) in Birmingham to calculate acceptable ranges.</p> <p>The intention of the BSAC to eventually provide data for all control/antibiotic combinations.</p>
When there are no BSAC recommendations; what does the laboratory do?	<p>It is possible to calculate an acceptable range for <i>in-house</i> use until data is published. A programme for calculating an acceptable range is available from the SMDC by emailing jenny.andrews@swbh.nhs.uk</p>
If control zones are repeatedly outside the acceptable range; what does the laboratory do?	<p>If laboratories collect zone data for a control/antibiotic combination where BSAC recommendations are not available, please forward the data to the SMDC (see email above) as this can be combined with data from other centres and included in the method.</p>
If control zones are repeatedly outside the acceptable range; what does the laboratory do?	<p>Refer to the section on <i>The Control of Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing</i> in the current version of the recommendations on disc diffusion testing at www.bsac.org.uk Table 1 gives possible sources of error. If the problem is not resolved send data to the SMDC (jenny.andrews@swbh.nhs.uk)</p>