ABSTRACT

Live cells of microorganism in a test sample are detected by distinguishing the live cells from dead cells or injured cells by the following steps of:

a) adding an agent capable of covalently binding to DNA or RNA by irradiation with light having a wavelength of 350 nm to 700 nm to the test sample;

b) irradiating the test sample to which the cross-linking agent is added with light having a wavelength of 350 nm to 700 nm;

c) amplifying a target region of DNA or RNA of the microorganism contained in the test sample by a nucleic acid amplification method in the presence of an agent for suppressing an action of a nucleic acid amplification inhibitory substance, without extracting nucleic acids from the cells; and

d) analyzing the amplified product.