**Glossary**

*PCR efficiency*

This can only be calculated if standards have been included. It is an important measure of an assay’s performance (Svec et al. 2015). An efficiency of 100% indicates an assay is working optimally. An efficiency above 110% generally results from the formation of primer-dimers or non-target amplicons or contamination, while an efficiency below 90% indicates that primer/probe design may not be optimal (Talyor et al. 2015). Lower efficiencies (<90%) will also likely affect precision and limit of detection (Nolan et al. 2013). Efficiencies outside of the 90%-110% range can indicate further assay optimization is required (Rodgers-Broadway and Karteris~~,~~ 2015). It is important to note that even when efficiencies are outside the recommended range, it is possible to interpret results correctly but a higher confidence is conferred when the range is within the guidelines.

*R2*

An R2 value less than 0.985 indicates there may have been pipetting error or the assay range may be inefficient (Rodgers-Broadway and Karteris~~,~~ 2015)