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# Nanotechnologies — Evaluation of the antimicrobial performance of textiles containing manufactured nanomaterials

*Nanotechnologies — Evaluation de la performance antimicrobienne des textiles contenant des nanomatériaux manufacturés*



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# Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

# Introduction

The utilization of nanotechnology in textile industry has presented novel functions such as antimicrobial activity, stain resistance, flame retardancy, mechanical strength enhancement, UV resistance, and wrinkle resistance into the conventional textiles without significant loss or change of the original properties. According to the nanodatabase website[17] there are already over 400 textiles containing manufactured nanomaterials (TCMNMs), making them the second largest market among other nanoproducts.

The rapid and continued growth of TCMNMs is increasing the need to develop international standards specific for manufactured nanomaterials (MNMs) in textiles and testing processes guidelines. It is a dual need of industry and consumer.

TCMNMs can be classified into three groups based on how nanomaterials are integrated into the textiles including nanofinished, nanocomposite, and nanofibrous textiles[1]:

a) Nanofinished textiles: The textiles that the applied nanoscale property is added after the textile fabrication through post-manufacture treatments and coatings to create nanostructured surfaces on fibre media. Most nanotextiles on the consumer market belong to this category.

b) Nanocomposite textiles: The textiles composed of fibres containing one or more nanostructured or nanoscale components produced by pre-manufacture integration of nanoscale properties into fibrous components.

c) Nanofibrous textiles: The textiles made of nanofibres which have a nanoscale cross-sectional area and may or may not have a nanoscale length.

Natural and manufactured textile fibres can be treated with different nanomaterials and chemicals to provide enhanced antimicrobial properties. The antimicrobial activities of TCMNMs include activities against bacteria, fungal, viruses, and other microorganisms. Also, the antimicrobial activities can help to impart anti-odour property as the consequence of the reduced microbial activity. For antimicrobial TCMNMs, various metals, mainly silver and copper, and metal oxides such as copper oxide (CuO), titanium dioxide ($TiO_2$) and zinc oxide (ZnO) are normally used.

Several characteristics of MNMs have great impacts on their antimicrobial performance including size, shape, surface area, chemical composition, surface chemistry and surface charge. The size and shape of MNMs have important impacts on their antimicrobial property due to their association to their surface area. Generally, the antibacterial properties of nanoparticles are size-dependent. Smaller particles with higher surface area to volume ratio have more contact with either bacteria or fungi cells, or both, leading to improve either the bactericidal or fungicidal effectiveness, or both[2]. Therefore, when they incorporate in textiles even at low concentrations they show noticeable antimicrobial activity compared to their micro-and macro scale counterparts.[3]-[5] The shape of MNMs remarkably influences the rate of interaction and uptake by microbial cells. For instance, spherical-shaped of gold nanoparticles demonstrated higher cellular uptake than nanorod shaped particles[7]. Surface charge of MNMs is another important characteristic that can be measured by Zeta potential method. The antimicrobial effect of MNMs is triggered by the electrostatic interaction between the positively charged MNMs and the negatively charged microbial cell membranes ultimately leading to cell damage and inhibition of their growth and reproduction. Surface chemistry of MNMs has an important effect on their antimicrobial activity. The presence of functional groups, capping agents or biomolecules on the surface of nanomaterials has also potential influence in their antibacterial activities. Surface functionalization of antimicrobial nanoparticles such as silver nanoparticles with bioactive molecules exhibited enhanced antibacterial activity compared to the bare ones[8]. The above-mentioned inter-relationship highlights the important effect of physiochemical characteristics on antimicrobial performance of TCMNMs.

Currently, there are various antimicrobial TCMNMs products in the market such as underwear, shirts, socks, and bed sheets/covers. The antimicrobial mechanism of action of nanomaterials can generally be described as one of three models: oxidative stress induction, metal ion release, or non-oxidative mechanisms, which can occur simultaneously as well[1]. The antimicrobial activity of

TCMNMs can decline significantly after several washing cycles and exposure to body sweat due to the possible release of incorporated nanomaterials and also the chemical action of sweat and laundering solution on the nanocompounds. Currently, there is no ISO document specific to TCMNM products. Therefore, the development of a standard to determine antimicrobial performance of TCMNMs subjected to washing process and body sweating can facilitate the trade and growth of market. It is worth mentioning that already published ISO standards are related to the assessment of antimicrobial properties of conventional textiles. Moreover, there is an ASTM standard document for detection and characterization of silver nanomaterials in textiles[9]. However, these documents do not address the potential release of nanomaterials/nanostructure from TCMNNs following washing or sweating and their possible consequence on the antimicrobial activity of these textiles.

This document does not address nano-safety and environmental impact of the release of nanomaterials from TCMNMs into the air, water and to landfill. Data related to the release of nanomaterials from the fabrics under different conditions such as sweating, mechanical stresses (repetitive abrasion) during washing process in a laundry machine, are considered as essential information for understanding the potential releases to the environment.

Artificial sweat solution is an appropriate candidate to use as a material to resemble the human skin sweat to determine the amount of release of nanomaterials from TCMNMs to human body. For many TCMNMs applications, such as human clothes, there is a high possibility of skin contact and interaction with incorporated nanomaterials[10]. In such condition, the involved interaction and release of the nanomaterial can also affect the antibacterial performance of TCMNMs.

Considering the effect of the release of nanomaterials from TCMNMs by washing process and human sweat, this document specifies the measurement methods of the released nanomaterials, the antimicrobial performance and the assessment method of TCMNMs. Further, from TCMNMs subjected to washing process and exposed to artificial human body sweat solution are specified.

# Nanotechnologies — Evaluation of the antimicrobial performance of textiles containing manufactured nanomaterials



## 1 Scope

This document specifies the antimicrobial performance assessment method of textiles containing manufactured (metals/metal oxides) nanomaterials (TCMNMs). The textiles in this document include fabric, yarn and fibre in which manufactured nanomaterials are used during production or finishing process. Further, this document also specifies protocols to determine the quantity of nanomaterials released from textile following washing and/or exposure to artificial human body sweat.

This document only covers the antibacterial, antifungal, and the anti-odour performance assessment method of TCMNMs.

This document does not cover textiles that have therapeutic application as well as environment, health and safety (EHS) issues related to TCMNMs. Further, it does not cover the release of nanomaterials from TCMNMs as a result of aging, dry attrition and abrasion, although it is considered as an effective factor in releasing nanomaterials.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 105-E04, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part E04: Colour fastness to perspiration*

ISO 6330, *Textiles — Domestic washing and drying procedures for textile testing*

ISO 20743:2021, *Textiles — Determination of antibacterial activity of textile products*

ISO 13629-1, *Textiles — Determination of antifungal activity of textile products — Part 1: Luminescence method*

ISO/TS 80004-1, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 1: Core terms*

EN 16711-1, *Textiles — Determination of metal content — Part 1: Determination of metals using microwave digestion*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 6330, ISO/TS 80004-1 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/