



International
Standard

ISO 5667-3

**Water quality — Sampling —
Part 3:
Preservation and handling of
water samples**

Qualité de l'eau — Échantillonnage —

Partie 3: Conservation et manipulation des échantillons d'eau

**Sixth edition
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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 document 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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Sampling (general methods)*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 230, *Water analysis*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition (ISO 5667-3:2018), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- ISO/TS 5667-25 has been added as a reference;
- a flow diagram for preservation and storage of water samples has been added;
- references in [Table A.1](#) have been updated;
- references in [Tables A.2](#) and [A.3](#) have been added;
- the previous Table A.1 has been split into [Table A.1](#) on inorganic analytes and [Table A.2](#) on organic analytes;
- [Table A.4](#) on microbiological analysis has been added;
- types of water have been added to [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#);
- the added terms used in [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#) have been explained.

A list of all parts in the ISO 5667 series can be found on the ISO website.

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

This document is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO 5667-1, which deals with the design of sampling programmes and sampling techniques.

Where possible, this document has been aligned with current standards. Where new research or validation results have provided new insights, the latest knowledge has been used.

Guidance on validation protocols can be found in ISO/TS 5667-25 and ISO 17034^[87].

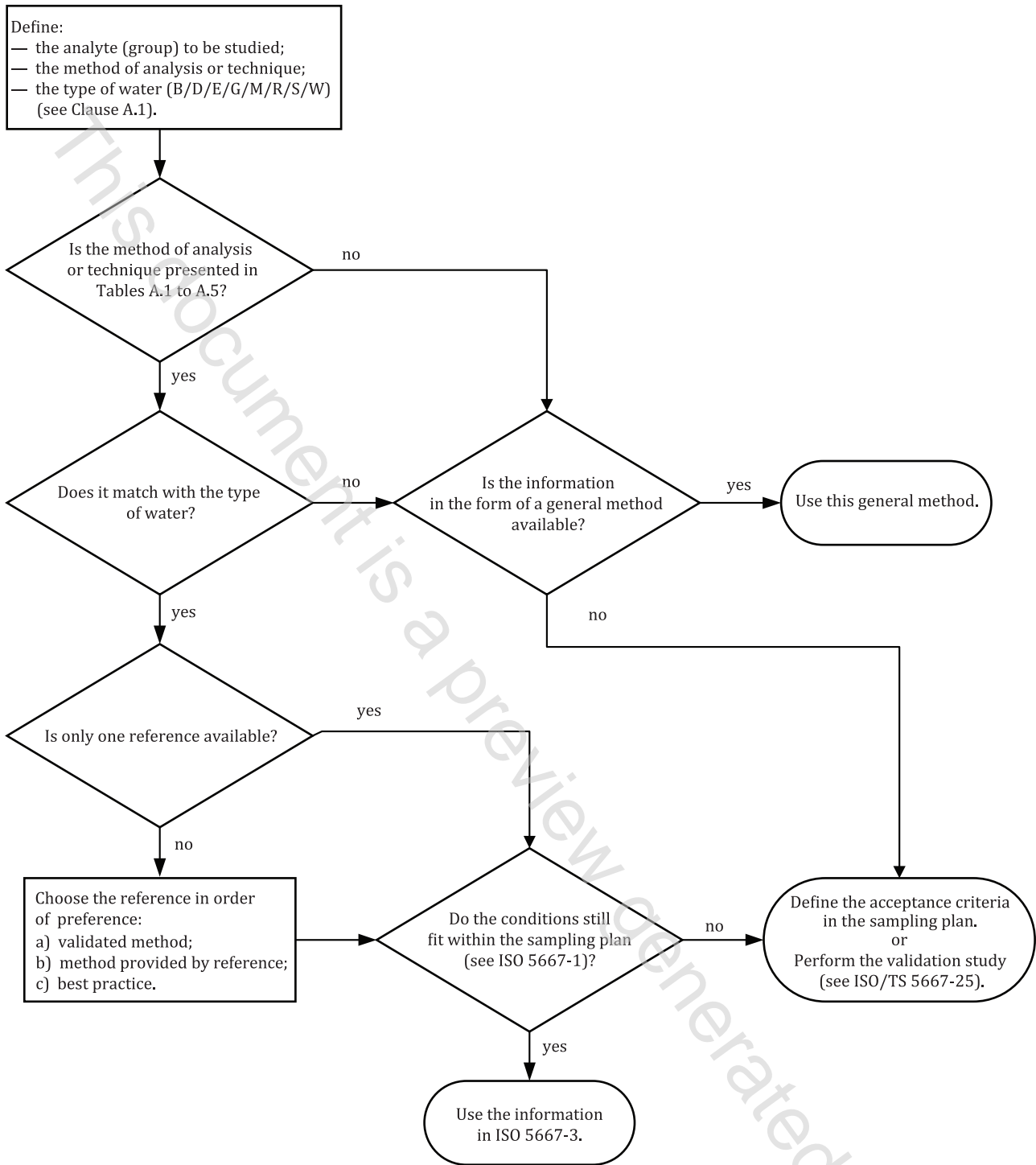
[Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#) provide the validated preservation times or conditions as well as the descriptions of best practice. [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#) also refer, for each analyte, to references available at the time of publication of this document (i.e. ISO 5667-3:2024). This is however not an exhaustive list. Other preservation methods may be used when they have been validated. However, it is strongly recommended that, where a method validation is not available, the preservation times for the analyte listed in [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#) for ISO test methods be followed. In case more than one storage time is provided in [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#), the order of preferred use is:

- validated method;
- method provided by reference;
- best practice.

The preservation and storage conditions and maximum storage times per analyte as listed in [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#) should be regarded as default conditions to be applied in the absence of any other information.

However, if validation of preservation techniques and holding times has been carried out, relative to specific circumstances and matrices, by a laboratory, then, provided that it can produce evidence of this validation where they differ from those set out in [Tables A.1](#) to [A.5](#), these validated preservation and storage conditions and maximum storage times are deemed acceptable for use by the validating laboratories. A national standard can contain information on preservation.

This document and the related analytical references can be used as presented in [Figure 1](#).



WARNING — ‘Method provided by reference’ and ‘validated method’ can be based on previous standards and methods and therefore not be in line with ISO/TS 5667-25. This information can be interpreted by a qualified and experienced person.

Figure 1 — Flow diagram for the selection of a method for the preservation and storage of water samples

Attention is drawn to ISO/TS 5667-25, which contains guidelines and the elaboration of the required techniques of how to validate new storage times or preservative methods and details of the techniques described.

Water quality — Sampling —

Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples

1 Scope

This document specifies the general requirements for sampling, preservation, handling, transport and storage of all water samples for physicochemical, chemical, hydrobiological and microbiological analyses and determination of radiochemical analytes and activities.

Guidance on the validation of storage times of water samples is provided in ISO/TS 5667-25.

This document is not applicable to water samples intended for ecotoxicological assays, biological assays (which is specified in ISO 5667-16), passive sampling (which is specified in ISO 5667-23) and microplastics (which is specified in ISO 5667-27).

This document is particularly appropriate when samples cannot be analysed on site and have to be transported to a laboratory for analysis.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 19458:2006, *Water quality — Sampling for microbiological analysis*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

best practice

method based upon consensus or general use and that can be referred to in literature

Note 1 to entry: Given the differences in conditions and circumstances as well as the impossibility to validate all parameters from a *validated method* (3.7) or technique or process, a best practice method based upon the corresponding properties of a validated parameter can be used.

3.2

integrity

property of the parameter(s) of interest, information or content of a sample stored in a container that has not been altered or lost in an unauthorized manner or that has been subject to loss of representativeness