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**Microbiology of food and animal feeding  
stuffs — Horizontal method for the  
enumeration of sulfite-reducing bacteria  
growing under anaerobic conditions**

*Microbiologie des aliments — Méthode horizontale pour le  
dénombrement des bactéries sulfito-réductrices se développant en  
conditions anaérobies*



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## Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 15213 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Microbiology*.

## Introduction

Because of the large variety of food and feed products, this horizontal method may not be appropriate in every detail for certain products. In this case, different methods specific to these products may be used if absolutely necessary for justified technical reasons. Nevertheless, every attempt will be made to apply this horizontal method as far as possible.

When this International Standard is next reviewed, account will be taken of all information then available regarding the extent to which this horizontal method has been followed and the reasons for deviations from this method in the case of particular products.

The harmonization of test methods cannot be immediate, and for certain group of products International Standards and/or national standards may already exist that do not comply with this horizontal method. It is hoped that when such standards are reviewed they will be changed to comply with this International Standard so that eventually the only remaining departures from this horizontal method will be those necessary for well-established technical reasons.

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# Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of sulfite-reducing bacteria growing under anaerobic conditions

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a horizontal method for the enumeration of sulfite-reducing bacteria growing under anaerobic conditions. It is applicable to

- products intended for human consumption and the feeding of animals, and
- environmental samples in the area of food production and food handling.

## 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 6887-1:1999, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Preparation of test samples, initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination — Part 1: General rules for the preparation of the initial suspension and decimal dilutions*

ISO 8261, *Milk and milk products — General guidance for the preparation of test samples, initial suspensions and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination*

ISO 7218:1996, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — General rules for microbiological examinations*

ISO 7218:1996/Amd.1:2001, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — General rules for microbiological examinations — Amendment 1*

ISO/TS 11133-1, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Guidelines on preparation and production of culture media — Part 1: General guidelines on quality assurance for the preparation of culture media in the laboratory*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### **sulfite-reducing bacteria growing under anaerobic conditions**

bacteria forming countable typical colonies under the conditions specified in this International Standard

## 4 Principle

**4.1** Two agar plates (or tubes) are prepared, using iron sulfite medium, and using a specified quantity of the test sample if the initial product is liquid, or using a specified quantity of an initial suspension in the case of other products.