INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 4833

Third edition
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Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms — Colony-count technique at 30 °C

Microbiologie des aliments — Méthode horizontale pour le dénombrement des micro-organismes — Technique de comptage des colonies à 30 °C

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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.

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 4833 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Microbiology*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4833:1991). The following technical changes have been made:

— subclause 5.2, Plate count agar: an examination of dairy products is included;

— Clause 10, Expression of results: precision data are given, and an example of precision data for dairy products.

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 which are specific to these products may be used if absolutely necessary for justified technical reasons. Nevertheless, every attempt should 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 them in the case of particular products.

The harmonization of test methods cannot be immediate, and for certain groups of products International Standards and/or national standards may already exist that do not comply with this horizontal method. In cases where International Standards already exist for the product to be tested, they should be followed. 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.

Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms — Colony-count technique at 30 °C

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a horizontal method for the enumeration of microorganisms, by counting the colonies growing in a solid medium after aerobic incubation at 30 °C. Subject to the limitations discussed in the introduction, this International Standard is applicable to products intended for human consumption or the feeding of animals.

The applicability of this International Standard to the examination of certain fermented food and animal feeding stuffs is limited. For the examination of fermented food and animal feeding stuffs, other media and/or incubation conditions might be more appropriate.

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 (all parts), *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Preparation of test samples, initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination*

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

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

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 Term and definition

For the purposes of this document, the following term and definition applies.

3.1
microorganism
bacteria, yeast and mould-forming countable colony, produced under the conditions specified in this International Standard