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**Cosmetics — Microbiology — Detection  
of *Escherichia coli***

*Cosmétiques — Microbiologie — Détection d'Escherichia coli*



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Published in Switzerland

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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 21150 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

## Introduction

Microbiological examinations of cosmetic products are to be carried out according to an appropriate microbiological risk analysis in order to ensure their quality and safety for consumers.

Microbiological risk analysis depends on several parameters such as:

- potential alteration of cosmetic products;
- pathogenicity of microorganisms;
- site of application of the cosmetic product (hair, skin, eyes, mucous membranes, etc.);
- type of users (adults, children under 3 years, etc.).

For cosmetics and other topical products, the detection of skin pathogens such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Candida albicans* may be relevant. The detection of other kinds of microorganisms might be of interest since these microorganisms (including indicators of faecal contamination, e.g. *Escherichia coli*) suggest hygienic failure during manufacturing process.

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# Cosmetics — Microbiology — Detection of *Escherichia coli*

## 1 Scope

This International Standard gives general guidelines for the detection and identification of the specified microorganism *Escherichia coli* in cosmetic products. Microorganisms considered as specified in this International Standard might differ from country to country according to national practices or regulations.

In order to ensure product quality and safety for consumers, it is advisable to perform an appropriate microbiological risk analysis, so as to determine the types of cosmetic products to which this International Standard is applicable. Products considered to present a low microbiological risk include those with low water activity, hydro-alcoholic products, extreme pH values, etc.

This International Standard specifies a method that is based on the detection of *Escherichia coli* in a non-selective liquid medium (enrichment broth), followed by isolation on a selective agar medium. Other methods may be appropriate depending on the level of detection required.

**NOTE** For the detection of *Escherichia coli*, subcultures can be performed on non-selective culture media followed by suitable identification steps (e.g. using identification kits).

Because of the large variety of cosmetic products within this field of application, this method might not be suited to some products in every detail (e.g. certain water-immiscible products). Other International Standards may be appropriate. Other methods (e.g. automated) can be substituted for the test presented here provided that their equivalence has been demonstrated or the method has been otherwise validated.

## 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 21148:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Cosmetics — Microbiology — General instructions for microbiological examination*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### **product**

portion of an identified cosmetic product received in the laboratory for testing

### 3.2

#### **sample**

portion of the product (at least 1 g or 1 ml) which is used in the test to prepare the initial suspension

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1) To be published.