

Textiles - Determination of antibacterial activity of  
textile products (ISO 20743:2021)

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ICS 07.100.99, 59.080.01

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN ISO 20743**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

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ICS 07.100.99; 59.080.01

Supersedes EN ISO 20743:2013

English Version

## Textiles - Determination of antibacterial activity of textile products (ISO 20743:2021)

Textiles - Détermination de l'activité antibactérienne des produits textiles (ISO 20743:2021)

Textilien - Bestimmung der antibakteriellen Wirksamkeit von textilen Produkten (ISO 20743:2021)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 4 June 2021.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

## European foreword

This document (EN ISO 20743:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38 "Textiles" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 248 "Textiles and textile products" the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2021.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 20743:2013.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

## Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 20743:2021 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 20743:2021 without any modification.

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 248, *Textiles and textile products*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 20743:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clause 2](#) has been updated;
- some NOTES have been changed to regular text;
- [Annex F](#) has been updated.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Specialty products of antibacterial-treated textiles have been introduced in the market and are expanding year by year in various applications. These textiles meet the consumer's requirement to seek prevention of, and protection from, the negative effects caused by bacteria, which in turn secures the quality of life.

This established a substantial need for an International Standard which covers test methods to determine the antibacterial activity for antibacterial textile products.

A qualitative test method for antibacterial activity was developed as ISO 20645. At the time, there were no testing standards for the quantitative method which gives more objective information for the antibacterial activity of the textile products.

Although there are 6 ways for the combination of inoculation methods and quantitative measurements to execute this test, the choice of the ways depends on the user's availability and consensus between the concerned parties.

# Textiles — Determination of antibacterial activity of textile products

## 1 Scope

This document specifies quantitative test methods to determine the antibacterial activity of all antibacterial textile products including nonwovens.

This document is applicable to all textile products, including cloth, wadding, thread and material for clothing, bedclothes, home furnishings and miscellaneous goods, regardless of the type of antibacterial agent used (organic, inorganic, natural or man-made) or the method of application (built-in, after-treatment or grafting).

This document covers three inoculation methods for the determination of antibacterial activity:

- a) absorption method (an evaluation method in which the test bacterial suspension is inoculated directly onto specimens);
- b) transfer method (an evaluation method in which test bacteria are placed on an agar plate and transferred onto specimens);
- c) printing method (an evaluation method in which test bacteria are placed on a filter and printed onto specimens).

**NOTE** Based on the intended application and on the environment in which the textile product is to be used, and also on the surface properties of the textile properties, the user can select the most suitable inoculation method.

This document also specifies the colony plate count method and the adenosine triphosphate (ATP) luminescence method for measuring the enumeration of bacteria.

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

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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/>

### 3.1

#### **control fabric**

fabric used to validate the growth condition of test bacteria and validate the test

Note 1 to entry: The same fabric as the fabric to be tested but without antibacterial treatment or a 100 % cotton fabric without fluorescent brighteners or other finish can be used.