

Cosmetics - Microbiology - General instructions for
microbiological examination (ISO 21148:2017)

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NATIONAL FOREWORD

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ICS 07.100.99, 71.100.70

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Cosmetics - Microbiology - General instructions for microbiological examination (ISO 21148:2017)

Cosmétiques - Microbiologie - Instructions générales
pour les examens microbiologiques (ISO 21148:2017)

Kosmetische Mittel - Mikrobiologie - Allgemeine
Anleitungen zur mikrobiologischen Untersuchung (ISO
21148:2017)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 26 April 2017.

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

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

European foreword

This document (EN ISO 21148:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217 “Cosmetics” in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 392 “Cosmetics” the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2017.

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 21148:2009.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

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, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 21148:2017 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 21148:2017 without any modification.

Contents

	Page
Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Premises	1
4.1 Test areas.....	1
4.2 Additional areas.....	2
4.3 Location of the premises.....	2
4.4 Equipping the premises.....	2
4.5 Maintenance.....	3
5 Equipment	3
5.1 General.....	3
5.2 Microbiological cabinets.....	3
5.3 Balances.....	3
5.4 Homogenizer.....	4
5.5 pH-meter.....	4
5.6 Autoclave.....	4
5.7 Incubator.....	4
5.8 Water baths.....	4
5.9 Refrigerator or cold-storage room.....	4
5.10 Freezer.....	4
5.11 Sterilizing oven.....	5
5.12 Colony-counting device.....	5
5.13 Other equipment.....	5
6 Strains of microorganisms	5
7 Personnel	6
7.1 Competence.....	6
7.2 Hygiene.....	6
8 Preparation of the apparatus and glassware	6
8.1 Preparation.....	6
8.2 Sterilization.....	6
8.2.1 Sterilization by dry heat.....	6
8.2.2 Sterilization by moist heat.....	7
8.3 Disposable apparatus.....	7
8.4 Management of clean apparatus and glassware.....	7
8.5 Management of sterile apparatus and glassware.....	7
8.6 Treatment of contaminated material.....	7
8.7 Washing.....	7
9 Preparation and sterilization of culture media and reagents	8
9.1 General.....	8
9.2 Water.....	8
9.3 Preparation of culture media.....	8
9.3.1 General.....	8
9.3.2 Rehydration.....	8
9.3.3 Measurement of pH.....	8
9.3.4 Dispensing.....	8
9.4 Sterilization.....	9
9.4.1 General.....	9
9.4.2 Sterilization by moist heat.....	9
9.4.3 Sterilization by filtration.....	9

9.5	Storage	9
9.5.1	General	9
9.5.2	Laboratory-prepared culture media and reagents	9
9.5.3	Ready-to-use culture media and reagents	10
9.6	Melting of agar culture media	10
9.7	Preparation of Petri dishes	10
10	Laboratory samples	10
10.1	General	10
10.2	Sampling the cosmetic product	10
10.3	Transport	10
10.4	Receipt and storage	11
10.5	Handling products and samples	11
10.6	Conservation and destruction of products	11
11	Operating practices	11
11.1	Hygienic precautions during the testing	11
11.2	Preparation of the initial suspension and of sample dilutions	12
11.2.1	General	12
11.2.2	Water-miscible product	12
11.2.3	Water-immiscible products	13
11.3	Counting methods	13
11.4	Detection methods	13
12	Expression of results	13
13	Neutralization of the antimicrobial properties of the product	13
Annex A (informative) Basic identification techniques		14
Annex B (informative) Basic techniques for counting and plating		19
Annex C (informative) Preparation and calibration of inoculums		20
Bibliography		21

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).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 21148:2005), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 21148:2005/Cor 1:2006.

The following changes have been made:

- a) in the Introduction, “validated” was changed to “demonstrated to be suitable”;
- b) in [Clause 6](#), “validation of the methodology” was changed to “verification of the methods’ suitability”;
- c) in [8.2.1](#), “validated” was changed to “demonstrated to be suitable”;
- d) in [Clause 13](#), “validated” was changed to “demonstrated”;
- e) in [A.5](#), “validated” was changed to “demonstrated to be suitable”;
- f) in [B.3](#), editorial changes were applied.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to help ensure that the general techniques used for conducting cosmetic microbiological examinations are the same in other laboratories that adopt these standards, to help achieve homogeneous results in different laboratories and to contribute towards the protection of the health of the laboratory personnel by preventing risk of infection.

When conducting microbiological examinations for cosmetic products, it is especially important that:

- only those microorganisms which are present in the samples be isolated or enumerated;
- the microorganisms do not contaminate the environment.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary to pay attention to personal hygiene and to use working techniques which ensure, as far as possible, exclusion of extraneous contamination.

Since, in this document, it is possible to give only a few examples of the precautions to be taken during microbiological examinations, a thorough knowledge of the microbiological techniques and of the microorganisms involved is essential. It is important that the analyses be conducted as accurately as possible, including calculation of the number of microorganisms.

A large number of manipulations can, for example, unintentionally lead to cross-contamination and the analyst should always verify the accuracy of the results given by his/her technique. It is necessary to take special precautions, not only for reasons of hygiene, but also to ensure good reproducibility of the results. It is not possible to specify all the precautions to be taken in all circumstances, but this document at least provides the main measures to be taken when preparing, sterilizing and storing the media and the equipment.

The given recommendations will allow enumeration and detection of mesophilic microorganisms which may grow under aerobic conditions.

The recommendations are applicable to the determination of the absence of, or limited occurrence of specified microorganisms that are of interest for cosmetic products.

The test methods are described in the individual standards. Alternative microbiological procedures can be used provided that their equivalence has been demonstrated or the method has been otherwise demonstrated to be suitable. The choice of a specific method, or combination of methods mentioned in these International Standards will depend on the purpose for performing the test and it is for the user to decide which approach is best for his/her application.

Cosmetics — Microbiology — General instructions for microbiological examination

1 Scope

This document gives general instructions for carrying out microbiological examinations of cosmetic products, in order to ensure their quality and safety, in accordance with an appropriate risk analysis (e.g. low water activity, hydro-alcoholic, extreme pH values).

Because of the large variety of products and potential uses within this field of application, these instructions might not be appropriate for some products in every detail (e.g. certain water-immiscible products).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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:

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

3.1

product

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

3.2

sample

portion of the *product* (3.1) (at least 1 g or 1 ml) that is used in the test to prepare the *initial suspension* (3.3)

3.3

initial suspension

suspension (or solution) of the *sample* (3.2) in a defined volume of an appropriate enrichment broth

3.4

sample dilution

dilution of the *initial suspension* (3.3)

4 Premises

4.1 Test areas

The areas required for the specific operation of a microbiology laboratory are as follows:

- receipt, storage, preparation and processing of the samples;
- preparation and sterilization of culture media, apparatus and glassware;