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Interested committees:

Title: Draft BS ISO 18671 Test methodologies for assessing products suitable to be flushed down a toilet and appropriate labelling.

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Introduction

This draft standard is based on national and international discussions. Your comments on this draft are invited and will assist in the preparation of the consequent standard.

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Please indicate whether you consider the UK should submit a negative (with supporting technical reasons) or positive vote on this draft. Please indicate if you are aware of any reason why this draft standard should not be published as a British Standard.

Submission of Comments

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Template for comments and secretariat observations

Date: xx/xx/20xx	Document: ISO/DIS xxxx
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1	2	(3)	4	5	(6)	7
MB	Clause No./ Subclause No./Annex (e.g. 3.1)	Paragraph/ Figure/Table/Note	Type of comment	Comment (justification for change) by the MB	Proposed change by the MB	Secretariat observations on each comment submitted
	3.1	Definition 1	ed	Definition is ambiguous and needs clarifying.	Amend to read '...so that the mains connector to which no connection...'	
	6.4	Paragraph 2	te	The use of the UV photometer as an alternative cannot be supported as serious problems have been encountered in its use in the UK.	Delete reference to UV photometer.	



DRAFT International Standard

ISO/DIS 18671

Test methodologies for assessing products suitable to be flushed down a toilet and appropriate labelling

ICS: 85.080.20

ISO/TC 224

Secretariat: **AFNOR**

Voting begins on:
2024-11-12

Voting terminates on:
2025-02-04

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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).

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee TC 224 WG 10.

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.

Introduction

Flushing of product that is incompatible with sewerage networks can contribute to

- blockages in home plumbing and smaller sewer pipes, and blockages in pumps,
- increased screening of solids for solid waste disposal
- increased burden for treatment processes both onsite and municipal with non-degradable materials which can lead to further downstream environmental impacts.
- increased risk of sewer blockages at reduced sewer flows.

Consistent labelling and education to inform consumers of proper disposal of products which are flushed is important to help reduce adverse effects on wastewater collection and treatment systems.

This document provides recommendations for

- labelling to be used with both flushable and non-flushable product packages in the absence of any local, state, national labelling regulations.
- the use of any of five different available methodologies worldwide for assessing products that can be flushed down the domestic toilet and subsequent labelling.

It is important to note that each of the methodologies are stand alone, and the individual methods are not designed to be interchanged. They are outlined in the appendices, detailing where they are being used and differences in testing approach enabling the reader to select whether a particular methodology is more relevant to their geographical region.

Test methodologies for assessing products suitable to be flushed down a toilet and appropriate labelling

1 Scope

This document identifies test methodologies for assessing the flushability of products that can be disposed via the toilet, and it specifies appropriate labelling. It is applicable to disposable products designed for, marketed for or likely to be used in a bathroom.

This document excludes:

- dry toilet paper as defined and covered by other ISO documents.
- chemical toilets or compost toilets that are not connected to sewer systems.
- macerator and vacuum sewer systems
- water soluble polymers

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 24513 and the following apply.

3.1 biodegradation

degradation due to the biological environment

[SOURCE: ISO/TR 13329:2012(en), 3.4 modified by the removal of Note 1]

3.2 disintegration

material breaking into small pieces in water under specified conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 12625-17:2021(en), 3.1, modified]

3.3 methodology

collection of standards, procedures and supporting methods that define the complete approach to the development of a product or system

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 21827:2008(en), 3.22]

3.4 mineralization

decomposition of organic matter or organic substances into carbon dioxide, water and the hydrides, oxides or other mineral salts

[SOURCE: ISO 11074:2015, 3.3.19]

3.5

persistence

existing or remaining in the same state for an indefinitely long time

[SOURCE: ISO TR 18307:2001]

3.6

plastic

solid material which contains, as an essential ingredient, one or more synthetic organic high polymers and which is formed (shape) during either manufacture of the polymer or the fabrication into a finished product by heat and/or pressure

Note 1 to entry: In different regions there are legal definitions of plastic(s). Users of this standard are advised to check the definition of plastic in the geographical / jurisdictional region where products are marketed.

[SOURCE: ISO 13618: 2001, 3.12 modified – Note removed, and new note added.]

3.7

toilet paper

(id bathroom tissue, id bath tissue): tissue paper intended for sanitary use after using the toilet.

[SOURCE: ISO 12625-17:2021(en), 3.1, modified]

Note 1 to entry: for the purpose of this document, “dry toilet paper” is another word to designate “toilet paper” as defined by the EN ISO 12625-1.

Note 2 to entry: products labelled as “moist toilet paper” are often made from nonwoven material and are not considered as “toilet paper” for the purpose of this document.

3.8

transit time

sewer transit time (also referred to as sewer residence time, in-sewer travel time, or wastewater residence time) refers to the amount of time a given volume of wastewater resides in a sewer system between a designated beginning and end point (for example, a pumping station or treatment plant).

3.9

toilet (water closet - W/C)

fixed receptacle into which a person may urinate or defecate, typically consisting of a large bowl connected to a cistern for flushing.

Note 1 to entry: Also known as a Water Closet (WS).

[SOURCE: ISO TR 24524:2019 3.7]

4 Framework

4.1 Context

4.1.1 General

This document is based on approaches within the following currently available national standards, international guidelines and specifications which have been adopted in some regions.

- AS NZS 5328: 2022 *Flushable Products* (Australia)
- GB/T 40181-2021 *Test method and evaluation for flushability of disposable sanitary nonwoven materials* (China)
- INDA and EDANA, Code of Practice: *Communicating Appropriate Disposal Pathways for Single Use Nonwoven Wet Wipes to Protect Wastewater Systems*, 3rd edition, March 2022.