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Interested committees:

Title: Draft BS ISO 24898 Traditional Chinese medicine -General requirements for the cultivation and primary processing of herbal materials.

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Introduction

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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 24898

Traditional Chinese medicine — General requirements for the cultivation and primary processing of herbal materials

ICS: 11.120.10

ISO/TC 249

Secretariat: **SAC**

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2025-03-17

Voting terminates on:
2025-06-09

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese Medicine*.

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Introduction

The efficacy and safety of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is largely influenced by the quality of medicinal plants that are used as the starting materials for TCM. And the changes in components of medicinal parts during cultivating, harvesting, processing, storage, and transportation ultimately also affect the quality of medicinal plants.

Good agricultural and collection practices (GACP) is crucial to ensure quality of medicinal plants (herbal medicine). WHO guidelines on good agricultural and collection practices (GACP) for medicinal plants was issued by World Health Organization in 2004. Several countries and regions, like the European Union, the United State, Canada, China have established or improved their own GACP standards subsequently, e.g. EU-GACP, AHPA-GACP, CHSNC-GACP, China-GACP. However, all these standards include both management and technical content. There is currently a lack of guidelines based on WHO-GACP, that mainly focus on the production process of herbal materials like cultivation and collection. Such guideline can enable practitioners to better grasp the technical points and obtain medicinal plants that are more in line with market demand.

The current GACPs have played an important role in guiding the production of medicinal plants for TCM in those areas. With the improvement of people's living standards, herbal materials with preventive and health-care functions are gradually becoming more and more popular, and the demand for herbal materials is increasing day by day. However, due to the long growth period and poor accessibility of wild populations of many medicinal plants, wild resources are not enough to support the growing demand. Hence, the demand for cultivated medicinal plants has increased sharply. However, the allelopathic or autotoxic effects of medicinal plants cause continuous cropping obstacles, make them difficult to cultivate. There is an urgent need for more key points of cultivation techniques and to formulate global general reference for medicinal materials cultivation. While some technical points in current GACPs are too detailed and lack operability, or not so applicable due to the updates and changes in production techniques over time. Therefore, in order to promote safety and quality at the first and most important stage of the production of herbal medicines, it is necessary to develop globally applicable technical requirements which target medicinal plant growers, collectors, and processors to meet the current situation and demand. We therefore developed this document and created informative templates for recording content during the production and processing of herbal materials, as detailed in [Annex A-E](#). [Annex A](#) provides an example of an identification record for seeds and other propagation materials. Examples of records for the use of agrochemicals, fertilizers, and soil improvers are given in [Annex B](#). An example of a record for the entire cultivation process is given in [Annex C](#). An example of a record of the entire collection process is given in [Annex D](#). Lastly, an example of a processing record is provided in [Annex E](#).

