

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Guide to determining the equivalence of
food microbiology test methods**

Part 2: Quantitative tests



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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee FT/4, Food Microbiology. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 12 November 1999 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 8 December 1999. It was published on 5 December 1999.

The following interests are represented on Committee FT/4:

Australia New Zealand Food Authority
 Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Australian Food and Grocery Council
 Australian Government Analytical Laboratories
 Australian Industry Group
 Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology
 Australian Poultry Industries Association
 Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization
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 Food Technology Association of Victoria
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Dairy Industry Quality Centre

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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee FT/4, Food Microbiology.

The objective of this Standard is to provide guidance on determining the equivalence of microbiological test methods. This Part covers requirements for determining whether an alternate enumeration method for quantitative tests will yield an equivalent result with an equivalent sensitivity to an Australian Standard or to a Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard in a specified matrix.

It is not intended that this Standard be applied retrospectively to existing laboratory validation studies, nor that it replace the validation of methods such as those performed under the auspices of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists, International or the Micro Val project of the European Union, which usually aim to validate a method which is applicable to a number of foods and applicable under a variety of laboratory conditions.

This guide to validation is intended for individual laboratories wishing to validate procedures that are alternatives to Standard methods. It allows the validation to be performed in a single laboratory. The result of following the procedures in this Guide is the production of a report which will in some specific situations allow a laboratory and its clients to determine or agree on whether an alternative method is suitable as a substitute for a Standard method. The results may then be applied to other laboratories.

This Standard is one of a series of Guides covering determination of the equivalence of food microbiology test methods. The other three Parts cover qualitative tests, confirmation tests and antibiotic tests.

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