

Methods for

Microbiological examination of food and animal feeding stuffs —

Part 13: Enumeration of *Escherichia coli*: colony count technique using membranes

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Foreword

This Part of BS 5763 has been prepared under the direction of the Food and Agriculture Standards Policy Committee. It is based on ISO 6391:1988 “*Meat and meat products — Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* — Colony count technique at 44 °C using membranes*” published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and in the preparation of which the United Kingdom played a full part.

With the following exceptions, the technical content of this Part of BS 5763 agrees with ISO 6391.

- a) The title and scope have been modified to reflect the applicability of the method to food and animal feeding stuffs, not solely to meat and meat products.
- b) References in the text to international standards for sampling of meat and meat products have been deleted, and clauses 7 “Sampling” and 8 “Preparation of the test sample” have been modified accordingly.

For ease of production, it has been found convenient to reproduce the text of ISO 6391, which has been amended to incorporate the differences outlined above. Some terminology and certain conventions are not identical to those used in British Standards.

It is recommended that BS 5763 “*Methods for microbiological examination of food and animal feeding stuffs*”, Part 0:1986 “*General laboratory practices*” be read in conjunction with this Part of BS 5763.

With reference to 5.1, water complying with grade 3 of BS 3978 “*Specification for water for laboratory use*”, and which is free from substances that might inhibit growth of *Escherichia coli*, is suitable.

Although, for well-accepted statistical reasons, the limit for the lowest number of colonies counted per plate of selective medium is set at 15, for practical purposes it is often desirable to establish an estimated count of lower numbers of *Escherichia coli*. The confidence limits of such determinations (reported as “estimated count”) are given in Annex A.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 6, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.