

Petri dishes —

Part 2: Specification for plastics Petri dishes for single use

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Laboratory Apparatus Standards Policy Committee (LBC/-) to Technical Committee LBC/2, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Clinical Pathologists
- British Laboratory Ware Association
- British Society for Haematology
- Department of Health
- Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Medical Research Council
- Medical Sterile Products Association
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Public Health Laboratory Service
- Royal College of Pathologists

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Laboratory Apparatus Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 31 July 1990

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
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Foreword

This Part of BS 611 has been prepared under the direction of the Laboratory Apparatus Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes BS 611-2:1982 which is withdrawn.

BS 611 was first published in 1935 and revised in 1940, 1952 and 1978 when it was divided into two Parts, Part 1 covering glass Petri dishes and Part 2 plastics Petri dishes for single use (published in 1982). Part 1 was declared obsolescent in 1986.

This revision of Part 2 introduces requirements for 140 mm round dishes in addition to the 90 mm size specified in the 1982 edition and introduces square dishes of side 100 mm because of their increasing use in industry.

The 1982 edition referred to monitoring by a regulatory authority of the environment and the finished product for microbiological contamination. At that time the regulatory authority concerned was the Department of Health and Social Security. That department is no longer able to fulfil this task and no other suitable body is currently able to carry out this function. Therefore requirements for monitoring microbiological contamination have been omitted from this revision. Consideration was given by the committee to the alternative of a test method for microbiological contamination of the product and the specification of acceptable limits on the basis of such a test, but consensus could not be reached on a satisfactory method. However, a central element in the manufacture of Petri dishes is the environment in which they are produced. It is recommended therefore that users purchasing to this standard should satisfy themselves that manufacturers offering an aseptically produced or terminally sterilized product employ a process of manufacture which meets the requirements of a recognized quality control system such as BS 5750 or the "Guide to good manufacturing practice for laboratory plastic disposables"¹⁾.

The Petri dishes on the market are not usually terminally sterilized but are moulded and packed under aseptic conditions. This practice can produce articles which are virtually germ free and meet the needs of most users. However, where guaranteed sterility is essential, gamma-irradiated dishes are available also from many suppliers.

Product certification. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of third party certification of product conformity with this British Standard based on testing and continued surveillance, which may be coupled with assessment of a supplier's quality systems against the appropriate Part of BS 5750.

Enquiries as to the availability of third party certification schemes will be forwarded by BSI to the Association of Certification Bodies. If a third party certification scheme does not already exist, users should consider approaching an appropriate body from the list of Association members.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

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.

¹⁾ Obtainable from the European Laboratory Plastics Association, Boulevard St Michel 83, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.