

Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of *Clostridium perfringens* — Colony count technique (ISO 7937:1997 modified)

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National foreword

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the EN title page, pages 2 to 15 and a back cover.

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**Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for enumeration
of *Clostridium perfringens* — Colony-count technique**
(ISO 7937:1997 modified)

Microbiologie des aliments — Méthode horizontale
pour le dénombrement de *Clostridium perfringens* —
Méthode par comptage des colonies
(ISO 7937:1997 modifiée)

Mikrobiologie von Lebensmitteln und Futtermitteln —
Horizontales Verfahren zur Zählung von *Clostridium*
perfringens — Koloniezählverfahren
(ISO 7937:1997 modifiziert)

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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 275, Food analysis — Horizontal methods, the Secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 1999, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 1999.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

In view of the voting results, the Technical Board of CEN decided not to take over ISO 7937:1997 unchanged but to publish this European Standard EN 13401 allowing, for the step of confirmation of the colonies, the use of the procedure as described in ISO 7937:1997 (using LS medium), or the procedure as described in the former version of ISO 7937:1985 (using the motility-nitrate medium and the lactose-gelatine medium).

The text of the International Standard ISO 7937:1997 was approved by CEN as a European Standard with agreed common modifications as indicated by a vertical line in the margin of the text.

Introduction

Because of the large variety of food and feed products, this horizontal method may not be appropriate in every detail for certain products for which it may be necessary to use different methods. Nevertheless, in all cases, every attempt should be made to apply this horizontal method as far as possible and deviations from this should only be made if absolutely necessary for technical reasons.

When this European Standard is next reviewed, account will be taken of all information then available regarding the extent to which this horizontal method has been followed and the reasons for deviations from it in the case of particular products.

The harmonization of test methods cannot be immediate, and for certain groups of products European Standards and/or national standards may already exist that do not comply with this horizontal method. It is hoped that when such standards are reviewed they will be changed to comply with this European Standard so that eventually the only remaining departures from this horizontal method will be those necessary for well-established technical reasons.

1 Scope

This European Standard describes a horizontal method for the enumeration of viable *Clostridium perfringens* in products intended for human consumption or the feeding of animals.

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

ISO 6887, *Microbiology — General guidance for the preparation of dilutions for microbiological examination*.

ISO 7218:1996, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — General rules for microbiological examinations*.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this European Standard, the following definitions apply.

3.1.1 *Clostridium perfringens*

Bacteria that form characteristic colonies (surrounded by a black halo) in the specified selective medium and which give positive confirmatory reactions when the test is carried out by either of two techniques specified in this European Standard.

NOTE For practical reasons, this definition of *Clostridium perfringens* does not exclusively describe strains of *C. perfringens*. In particular, the confirmatory tests are inadequate to distinguish between *C. perfringens* and other closely related but less commonly encountered *Clostridium* species such as *C. paraperfringens* and *C. absonum*.

3.2 enumeration of *C. perfringens*

Determination of the number of viable and confirmed *Clostridium perfringens* bacteria per millilitre or per gram of sample when the test is carried out by the method specified in this European Standard.