



BSI Standards Publication

Plant biostimulants — Determination of *Rhizobium* spp.

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 17718:2024. It supersedes PD CEN/TS 17718:2022, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee W/-, Miscellaneous Standards.

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Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

English Version

Plant biostimulants - Determination of *Rhizobium* spp.

Biostimulants des végétaux - Détermination de
Rhizobium spp.

Pflanzen-Biostimulanzien - Bestimmung von
Rhizobium spp.

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 26 August 2024.

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European foreword

This document (EN 17718:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 455 “Plant Biostimulants”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2025, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2025.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes CEN/TS 17718:2022.

EN 17718:2024 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to CEN/TS 17718:2022:

- the European foreword has been updated;
- the Introduction has been updated;
- the Bibliography has been re-numbered;
- in Annex A, Buffered Peptone Water has been added as diluent for the enumeration;
- in 4.5 a general description of the colonies of the different genera has been included;
- in Clause A.5, the recipe of Phosphate Buffered Saline has been modified;
- Annex ZA has been added.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN by the European Commission. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

For the relationship with EU Legislation, see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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Introduction

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) was requested by the European Commission (EC) to draft European Standards or European Standardization deliverables to support the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of 5 June 2019 [1] laying down rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilising products (“FPR” or “Fertilising Products Regulation”).

This standardization request, presented as SR M/564 and relevant amendments, also contributes to the Communication on “Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bio economy for Europe”. The interest in plant biostimulants has increased significantly in Europe as a valuable tool to use in agriculture. Standardization was identified as having an important role in order to promote the use of biostimulants. The work of CEN/TC 455 seeks to improve the reliability of the supply chain, thereby improving the confidence of farmers, industry, and consumers in biostimulants, and will promote and support commercialisation of the European biostimulant industry.

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1], only *Rhizobium* spp. is required.

WARNING — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted in accordance with this document be carried out by suitably trained staff.