

Cosmetics — Microbiology — General instructions for microbiological examination

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 21148:2009. It is identical to ISO 21148:2005. It supersedes BS ISO 21148:2005 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CW/217, Cosmetics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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English Version

**Cosmetics - Microbiology - General instructions for
microbiological examination (ISO 21148:2005)**

Cosmétiques - Microbiologie - Instructions générales pour
les examens microbiologiques (ISO 21148:2005, Cor
1:2006 inclus)

Kosmetik - Mikrobiologie - Allgemeine Anleitungen für
mikrobiologische Untersuchungen (ISO 21148:2005)

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Foreword

The text of ISO 21148:2005 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217 “Cosmetics” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 21148:2009 by Technical Committee CEN/SS H99 “Products for household and leisure use - Undetermined” the secretariat of which is held by CMC.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2009.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 21148:2005 has been approved by CEN as a EN ISO 21148:2009 without any modification.

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Introduction

The purpose of this International Standard is to help ensure that the general techniques used for conducting cosmetic microbiological examinations are the same in other laboratories that adopt these standards, to help achieve homogeneous results in different laboratories and to contribute towards the protection of the health of the laboratory personnel by preventing risk of infection.

When conducting microbiological examinations for cosmetic products, it is especially important that:

- only those microorganisms which are present in the samples be isolated or enumerated;
- the microorganisms do not contaminate the environment.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary to pay attention to personal hygiene and to use working techniques which ensure, as far as possible, exclusion of extraneous contamination.

Since, in this International Standard it is possible to give only a few examples of the precautions to be taken during microbiological examinations, a thorough knowledge of the microbiological techniques and of the microorganisms involved is essential. It is important that the analyses be conducted as accurately as possible, including calculation of the number of microorganisms.

A large number of manipulations can, for example, unintentionally lead to cross-contamination and the analyst should always verify the accuracy of the results given by his/her technique. It is necessary to take special precautions, not only for reasons of hygiene, but also to ensure good reproducibility of the results. It is not possible to specify all the precautions to be taken in all circumstances, but this International Standard at least provides the main measures to be taken when preparing, sterilizing and storing the media and the equipment.

The given recommendations will allow enumeration and detection of mesophilic microorganisms which may grow under aerobic conditions.

The recommendations are applicable to the determination of the absence of, or limited occurrence of specified microorganisms that are of interest for cosmetic products.

The test methods are described in the individual standards. Alternative microbiological procedures can be used provided that their equivalence has been demonstrated or the method has been otherwise validated. The choice of a specific method, or combination of methods mentioned in these International Standards will depend on the purpose for performing the test and it is for the user to decide which approach is best for his/her application.

Cosmetics — Microbiology — General instructions for microbiological examination

1 Scope

This International Standard gives general instructions for carrying out microbiological examinations of cosmetic products, in order to ensure their quality and safety, in accordance with an appropriate risk analysis (e.g. low water activity, hydro-alcoholic, extreme pH values).

Because of the large variety of products and potential uses within this field of application, these instructions might not be appropriate for some products in every detail (e.g. certain water-immiscible products).

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

product

portion of an identified cosmetic product received in the laboratory for testing

2.2

sample

portion of the product (at least 1 g or 1 ml) which is used in the test to prepare the initial suspension

2.3

initial suspension

suspension (or solution) of a sample in a defined volume of an appropriate liquid (diluent, neutralizer, broth or combination of them)

2.4

sample dilution

dilution of the initial suspension

3 Premises

3.1 Test areas

The areas required for the specific operation of a microbiology laboratory are as follows:

- receipt, storage, preparation and processing of the samples;
- preparation and sterilization of culture media, apparatus and glassware;
- performance of analyses: weighing, dilutions, inoculations, subculturing, incubation, maintenance of the strain, etc.;
- decontamination and cleaning of apparatus, glassware, and processing of the analysis waste.

3.2 Additional areas

The areas included in this category are, for example:

- entrances, corridors, stairways, lifts;
- administrative areas (e.g. secretarial, offices, documentation rooms, etc.);
- cloakrooms and toilets;
- archive rooms;
- stores.

3.3 Location of the premises

The environment within which the microbiological analyses are carried out shall not affect the reliability of the analyses.

Care shall be taken to locate the premises so as to avoid risk of cross-contamination.

Care shall be taken to ensure protection against extreme conditions such as excess temperature, dust, humidity, steam, noise, vibration, exposure to direct sunlight, etc.

The surface area shall be sufficiently large to keep the work areas clean and orderly.

During the course of the tests, care shall be taken to limit access to the test areas to only those persons required to conduct the tests.

Separate rooms and/or separate areas and/or specific enclosures should be provided for the following:

- receipt, storage and preparation of samples;
- manipulation of microbial cultures;
- preparation of culture media, apparatus and glassware;
- decontamination and washing area;
- sterilization;
- incubators, refrigerators and freezers.

3.4 Equipping the premises

3.4.1 The test premises shall be fitted out in the following ways in order to reduce the risks of contamination by dust and therefore by microorganisms:

- walls, ceilings and floors should be smooth, non-porous, easy to clean, and resistant to detergents and disinfectants used in laboratories;
- overhead pipes conveying fluids should not cross the premises unless they are hermetically enclosed;
- sun-protection systems, when used, shall be installed on the outside of the windows, where practicable;

- windows and doors shall be able to be closed when conducting the test in order to minimize draughts. Furthermore, they shall be designed so as to avoid the formation of dust traps and hence, to facilitate the cleaning.

3.4.2 The ambient temperature and air quality (microorganism content, humidity, dust-spreading rate, etc.) shall be compatible with carrying out the tests.

According to needs, a filter-ventilation and/or a microbiological cabinet are recommended for this purpose.

3.4.3 The laboratory bench tops and furniture shall be made of smooth, non-porous impermeable materials, which are easy to clean and disinfect. Cabinet and equipment tops should be accessible for cleaning.

Non-fixed laboratory furniture shall be designed so as to facilitate cleaning the floors.

It is desirable that documents or books that are not frequently used be kept outside the test areas.

3.5 Maintenance

The floors, walls, ceiling, laboratory bench tops and furniture shall be maintained in good order to avoid cracks where dirt might particularly accumulate and thus cause a source of contamination.

Regular cleaning and, when relevant, disinfection shall be carried out in order to keep the premises in a condition suitable for conducting tests.

The ventilation systems and their filters shall be regularly maintained and filters changed when necessary.

4 Equipment

4.1 General

In general, all equipment shall be kept clean and in proper working condition.

Maintenance operations should be monitored. The measurement instruments and apparatus shall be regularly verified according to an appropriate timetable and results recorded.

4.2 Microbiological cabinets

Cabinets are of two types:

- a) clean-air cabinets, which are intended to protect the product from extraneous contamination and to minimize contamination due to the operator;
- b) safety cabinets, which are intended to protect the product from extraneous contamination, and also to protect the operator and the environment.

Either cabinet can be used. Safety cabinets should be used for all work involving risk for the operator.

A cabinet is a dust-free workstation equipped with vertical laminar airflow. In microbiology, a safety cabinet is used to retain the microorganisms on filters.

4.3 Balances

A microbiology laboratory for analyses of cosmetic products should be equipped with balances of the required range and accuracy for the different products to be weighed. Generally, the accuracy required for weighing the samples to be analysed and some components of the culture media and reagents, is $\pm 0,01$ g.