

Draft for Development

Method of test for the antimicrobial activity of disinfectants in food hygiene

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Committees responsible for this Draft for Development

The preparation of this Draft for Development was entrusted by the Disinfectants Standards Committee (DIC/-) to Technical Committee DIC/12, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Public Analysts
- British Association for Chemical Specialities
- British Food Manufacturing Industries Research Association
- British Medical Association
- Campden Food Preservation Research Association
- Department of Trade and Industry (Laboratory of the Government Chemist)
- Hospital Infection Society
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- Institution of Environmental Health Officers
- Medical Research Council
- Public Health Laboratory Service Board
- Society for Applied Bacteriology
- Society of Chemical Industry

This Draft for Development, having been prepared under the direction of the Disinfectants Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 31 January 1989

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The following BSI reference relates to the work on this Draft for Development:
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Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Quantitative suspension test for assessing bactericidal and fungicidal activity	1
3 Media and reagents	3
Publications referred to	Inside back cover

Foreword

This publication is not to be regarded as a British Standard.

It is being issued in the Draft for Development series of publications and is of a provisional nature because there is at present insufficient experience in the application of the test method and insufficient knowledge of the results likely to be obtained and of the relevance of the test to UK conditions. It is recommended that it should be applied on this provisional basis so that information and experience of its practical application may be obtained.

Two reviews of this Draft for Development will be carried out not later than three years after its publication (see foreword). Notification of the start of each review period, with requests for the submission of comments from users of this Draft for Development, will be made in an announcement in the appropriate issue of *BSI News*. Observations which it is felt should receive attention before the official calls for comments will be welcomed.

According to the replies received, the responsible BSI committee will judge what action should be taken in respect of UK input to further European work on this subject and whether the work can be published as a British Standard.

This Draft for Development has been prepared under the direction of the Disinfectants Standards Committee at the request of the British Association for Chemical Specialities. It is intended to assist further UK participation in development of the method which has been drawn up by a group of experts on behalf of the Council of Europe.

This Draft for Development is identical from clause 2 onwards with "Test Methods for the Antimicrobial Activity of Disinfectants in Food Hygiene"¹⁾, published by the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) in 1987, except for the clause numbers. However, it is strongly recommended that users of this Draft for Development obtain a copy of the full report of the efforts to initiate the development of a harmonized European method for testing the efficacy of disinfectants in food hygiene. The full report describes the method as a screening test intended for further evaluation by laboratories normally involved in efficacy testing of disinfectants in food hygiene, and recognizes that the test does not preclude the need for further tests concerning the application of a disinfectant under various practical conditions.

The Technical Committee, being aware that the aim of the Council of Europe work is to develop a harmonized European method and that such a method could be taken up, in the absence of other methodology, by legislators, considers it highly desirable for the UK disinfectant and food industries to use the test as developed on the current range of disinfectants that have proved satisfactory for food hygiene applications in the UK.

Those undertaking such work are asked to report their findings to the Secretary of DIC/12, BSI, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS within 12 months of the date on which this Draft for Development comes into effect (see back cover). Reports should include identification of the disinfectant and the results obtained as well as details of any necessary variations from the test procedures described in this Draft for Development. The Technical Committee intends to review all the information received during that period and, if appropriate, to make recommendations on any modifications to the method that might be worthy of further investigation. The overall aim is to enable the Technical Committee on behalf of the UK to provide further input to the discussions leading to the confirmation or development of the Council of Europe test.

¹⁾ The report is obtainable in the UK from HMSO, Agency Section, 51 Nine Elms Lane, London SW8 5DR.