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Stainless steel and silver-plated table cutlery — Requirements

Couverts et coutellerie de table en acier inoxydable et en métal argenté — Spécifications

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 8442 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 186, *Cutlery and table and decorative metal hollow-ware*.

Annexes A to E form an integral part of this International Standard.

Stainless steel and silver-plated table cutlery — Requirements

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies

- a) performance requirements for table cutlery (this includes knives, forks, spoons, carving sets, ladles and other serving pieces);
- b) composition limits for steels and non-ferrous metals for cutlery;
- c) tests for resistance to permanent deformation, firmness of handle attachment, hardness of blades, resistance to corrosion of stainless steel parts and the thickness and adhesion of silver coatings. The corresponding test methods are specified in annexes A to E.

This International Standard is applicable to stainless steel cutlery and silver-plated nickel-silver or silver-plated stainless steel cutlery. It does not cover cutlery made of precious metals, aluminium, non-stainless steel or that made entirely of nickel-silver nor does it cover gold-plated or chromium-plated cutlery or that with non-metal handles.

In the case of silver-plated cutlery, two minimum average thicknesses are specified, a "normal thickness" and a "special thickness" with a thicker deposit of silver.

This International Standard is concerned only with quality and does not include requirements for design, size, type of finish, blade flexibility or similar characteristics which are matters of personal choice or which can be readily assessed by the purchaser at the point of sale. No sampling provisions are included within this International Standard, the requirements specified being for each and every item produced. In this International Standard the method of defining silver deposits also relates to each and every item, in contrast to traditional methods which relate to an average of 12 or 24 pieces among which some items may have a significantly lower thickness of silver coating.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1463 : 1982, *Metallic and oxide coatings — Measurement of coating thickness — Microscopical method.*

ISO 2177 : 1985, *Metallic coatings — Measurement of coating thickness — Coulometric method by anodic dissolution.*

ISO 3543 : 1981, *Metallic and non-metallic coatings — Measurement of thickness — Beta backscatter method.*

ISO 4481 : 1977, *Cutlery and flatware — Nomenclature.*

ISO 6508 : 1986, *Metallic materials — Hardness test — Rockwell test (scales A - B - C - D - E - F - G - H - K).*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard the definitions given in ISO 4481 and the following definitions apply.

3.1 items of frequent use: The following items as designated in ISO 4481:

41, 44, 45, 49, 61, 72, 78, 79, 82, 93, 100, 102 and 105.

3.2 items of infrequent use: Those items designated in ISO 4481 which are not listed in 3.1 and which may be used at the table.

3.3 significant surfaces: Those parts of the cutlery in contact with the flat horizontal surface upon which they are laid; in the case of spoons, forks and ladles, the concave faces of their bowls or fork prongs are uppermost. In the case of knives, both sides are regarded as having significant surfaces.

3.4 unsharpened knives: Knives that do not have a sharpened blade because they are intended for use with soft foods and whose blades are therefore not made of martensitic stainless steel.

This includes the following items as designated in ISO 4481:

90, 92, 97, 102 and 103.

4 Materials and their applications

4.1 General

Table cutlery shall be made from materials that enable the finished cutlery to meet the requirements of clause 7. The materials shall be in accordance with 4.2.