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**Materials and articles in contact with
foodstuffs — Cutlery and table holloware —**

Part 2:

**Requirements for stainless steel and
silver-plated cutlery**

*Matériaux et objets en contact avec les denrées alimentaires — Coutellerie
et orfèvrerie de table —*

*Partie 2: Exigences relatives à la coutellerie et aux couverts en acier
inoxydable et en métal argenté*

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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 voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 8442-2 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee TC 186, *Cutlery and table and decorative metal hollow-ware*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This first edition cancels and replaces ISO 8442:1988, which has been technically revised.

ISO 8442 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs — Cutlery and table holloware*:

- *Part 1: Requirements for cutlery for the preparation of food*
- *Part 2: Requirements for stainless steel and silver-plated cutlery*
- *Part 3: Requirements for silver-plated table and decorative holloware*
- *Part 4: Requirements for gold-plated cutlery*

Further parts are proposed with the following titles:

- *Part 5: Specific cutting test*

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- *Part 6: Lacquered lightly silver-plated table and decorative holloware*
- *Part 7: Specification for table cutlery made of precious metals and their alloys, especially silver cutlery*
- *Part 8: Specification for silver table and decorative holloware*

Annexes A to E form an integral part of this part of ISO 8442. Annex F is for information only.

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Foreword

The text of EN ISO 8442-2:1997 has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 194 “Utensils in contact with food”, the secretariat of which is held by BSI, in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 186 “Cutlery and table and decorative metal hollow-ware”.

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 June 1998, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 1998.

EN ISO 8442 consists of the following parts:

- Part 1: Requirements for cutlery for the preparation of food
- Part 2: Requirements for stainless steel and silver-plated cutlery
- Part 3: Requirements for silver-plated and decorative holloware
- Part 4: Requirements for gold-plated cutlery

Further parts are proposed with the following titles

- Part 5: Specific cutting test
- Part 6: Lacquered lightly silver-plated table and decorative holloware
- Part 7: Specification for table cutlery made of precious metals and their alloys, especially silver cutlery
- Part 8: Specification for silver table and decorative holloware

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, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

This Standard, based on ISO 8442, is concerned with performance 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. In this Standard the thickness of silver deposit is stipulated for each and every item, in contrast to traditional methods which relate to an average of 12 or 24 items, amongst which some items can have a significantly lower thickness of silver coating.

Attention is drawn to Directives of the European Community concerning materials and articles in contact with food, in particular to Directives EC 89/109 and EC 90/128.

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1 Scope

This part of this Standard specifies material, performance requirements and test methods for table cutlery (knives, forks, spoons, carving sets, ladles, children's cutlery and other serving pieces).

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

Three minimum thicknesses of silver are specified for silver-plated cutlery.

2 Normative references

This 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 Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

ISO 1463	Metallic and oxide coatings - Measurement of coating thickness - Microscopical method
ISO 2177	Metallic coatings - Measurement of coating thickness - Coulometric method by anodic dissolution
ISO 3497	Metallic coatings - Measurement of coating thickness - X-ray spectrometric methods
ISO 3543	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 Standard the definitions given in ISO 4481:1977 apply together with the following.

3.1 items of frequent use: Pieces of cutlery regularly used at the dining table. They are listed in ISO 4481 : 1977 as: coffee or teaspoon, soup spoon, dessert spoon, menu spoon, table spoon, dessert fork, menu fork, fish eating fork, table fork, dessert knife, menu knife, fish eating knife, table knife.

3.2 items of infrequent use: Pieces of cutlery which are occasionally used at the dining table. These items are defined in ISO 4481 : 1977 and exclude those listed in 3.1.

3.3 significant surfaces: Parts of cutlery in contact with a flat horizontal surface upon which they are laid; for spoons, forks and ladles this will be the convex face, i.e. their bowls or fork prongs are uppermost; for 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: butter knife, fish serving knife, ice cream knife, fish eating knife, spreading knife.

3.5 monobloc knives: Knives made of one piece.

3.6 normal corrected vision: The naked eye corrected to normal vision if necessary.

NOTE. This is usually done by the wearing of spectacles.

4 Materials

4.1 General

The cutlery shall be made from materials that enable the finished product to meet all of the performance requirements of this standard.

NOTE: The cutlery should not under foreseeable conditions of use release any substance likely to be detrimental to health or to have any detrimental organoleptic effects.

4.2 Metals

4.2.1 The composition of metal parts of table cutlery shall be as given in table 1.

4.2.2 Any parts of table cutlery made of nickel silver (copper zinc nickel alloy) shall be silver-plated (see clause 6).

4.2.3 Any parts of table cutlery made of stainless steel and claimed to be silver-plated shall conform with the requirements of clause 6.

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5 Construction

5.1 General

Cutlery manufactured from the materials specified in clause 4 shall be so constructed that it meets all of the relevant performance requirements of this standard.

5.2 Alignment, uniformity and absence of defects

5.2.1 All surfaces shall be free from cracks, pits and other defects.

5.2.2 As far as is practicable, all cutlery shall be straight and symmetrical except when the lack of straightness or symmetry is an intentional feature of the design.

5.2.3 Identical items within a batch shall, as far as is practicable, show no variation in dimension or form.

5.2.4 All edges, including the edges of spoons, forks, ladles and the insiders of fork prongs, shall be free from burrs and the roughness of blanked edges shall have been removed by a suitable operation.

5.2.5 Table knives shall be balanced such that when the knife is pivoted on its bolster, or at the junction of the handle and blade if no bolster is present, the handle shall be heavier than the blade.

5.2.6 Compliance with the requirements for 5.2.1 to 5.2.5 shall be checked by touch or by visual inspection.

5.3 Hollow handles

The seams joining hollow handles together shall be watertight.

5.4 Knife edges

The cutting edge of sharpened table knives shall be either scalloped or serrated or shall be whetted to an included angle not greater than 60°.

The cutting edges of a carving knife blade shall be whetted to an inclined angle not greater than 40° and shall not be thicker than 0,46 mm when measured 1 mm from the external side of the edge.

5.5 Sprung fork guards

When fitted, sprung fork guards shall have a positive opening and closing snap action.

6 Silver-plated cutlery

6.1 General

All silver-plated surfaces shall comply with the requirements of 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.

6.2 Average thickness

The average thickness of silver coating on each and every finished item when measured in accordance with the methods described in annex A (weight of coating) and annex B (area of coating) shall be as specified in table 2.

Table 2: Average thickness of classes of silver coating			
Description	Symbol	Items for frequent use	Items for infrequent use
First class	I	min. 30 µm	min. 17 µm
Second class	II	min. 20 µm	min. 12 µm
Third class	III	min. 10 µm	min. 7 µm

6.3 Local thickness

The minimum local thickness of silver coating on significant surfaces (i.e. those parts of cutlery subject to the greatest wear; see 3.3) shall not be less than 60 % of the average thickness deemed to be on the item.