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**Materials and articles in contact with  
foodstuffs — Cutlery and table holloware —  
Part 4:  
Requirements for gold-plated cutlery**

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

*Partie 4: Exigences relatives à la coutellerie et aux couverts dorés*

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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 8442-4 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).

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*
- *Part 6: Lacquered lightly silver-plated table and decorative holloware*

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- *Part 7: Specification for table cuttlery made of precious metals and their alloys, especially silver cuttlery*
- *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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**Contents**

	Page
Foreword.....	v
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope.....	1
2 Normative references.....	1
3 Definitions.....	1
4 Materials and their application .....	2
5 Construction.....	4
6 Gold plated cutlery.....	5
7 Performance requirements.....	5
8 Marking and labelling.....	7

**Annexes**

A (normative)	Test method for average thickness of gold coating.....	9
B (normative)	Schlegel method of determining surface area .....	10
C (normative)	Test method for corrosion resistance of unplated steel cutlery.....	12
D (normative)	Test method for strength of knives with martensitic stainless steel blades and carving forks.....	14
E (normative)	Test method for adhesion of gold coatings .....	16
F (informative)	Bibliography.....	17

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[ISO 8442-4:1997](#)

<https://standards.itih.ai/catalog/standards/iso/0c9cdb68-07ed-4112-be34-68e9ad079ee/iso-8442-4-1997>

## Foreword

The text of EN ISO 8442-4:1997 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 table and decorative hollowware
- 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 hollowware
- Part 7: Specification for table cutlery made of precious metals and their alloys, especially silver cutlery
- Part 8: Specification for silver table and decorative hollowware

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

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## Introduction

This Standard does not cover those features of cutlery which are matter of personal choice for the user: such as the design, size, type of finish, blade flexibility or similar characteristics which can be readily identified by the purchaser at the point of sale.

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 Standard specifies the following requirements for gold plated cutlery:

- a) performance requirements for table cutlery (for example, knives, forks, spoons, carving sets, ladles, and other serving pieces);
- b) composition limits for base metals for cutlery;
- c) tests for resistance to permanent deformation, firmness of handle attachment, hardness of blades, resistance to corrosion and the thickness and adhesion of gold coatings;
- d) three minimum thicknesses of gold plating: a first class, a second class, and a third class.

This Standard specifies the method of defining gold deposits for each and every item and also test methods.

This Standard does not apply to table cutlery which has only small areas of gold plate as inlays in non gold plated decoration.

## 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 scatter 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)
EN ISO 8442-2	Materials and articles in contact with foodstuffs - Cutlery and table holloware - Part 2: Requirements for stainless steel and silver plated cutlery (ISO 8442-2:1997)

## 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this Standard the definitions given in ISO 4481:1977 and EN ISO 8442-2 apply together with the following.

**3.1 hard gold plating:** Refined gold plating containing elements which increase the hardness.

## 4 Materials and their application

### 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 transfer 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 All gold plated parts of table cutlery shall be in accordance with the requirements of clause 6.

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Table 1: Metals for table cutlery, compositions limit

Applications	Materials	Chemical composition <sup>1)</sup>										
		C	P max.	S max.	Cr min.	Ni min.	Mo max. <sup>2)</sup>	V max. <sup>2)</sup>	Mn max.			
Spoons, forks, ladles, unsharpened knives, handles of knives and carving forks	Austenitic stainless steel	0,07 max.	0,045	0,015	17,0	8,0	2,0					
		0,15 max.	0,045	0,015	17,0	4,0			10,5			
Guards and prongs of carving items	Ferritic stainless steel	0,08 max.	0,040	0,015	16,0		1,30					
Guards and prongs of carving items	Martensitic stainless steel (low carbon)	0,16 min.	0,040	0,015	12,0							
Knife blades handles of monobloc knives	Martensitic stainless steel (higher carbon)	0,26 min.	0,040	0,015	12,0		1,30	0,20				
		Ag min.	Cu min.	Ni min.	Zn	Mn max.	Fe	Pb	Total impurities max. %			
Spoons, forks, ladles, unsharpened knives and carving forks	Silver 800	80,0	20,0									
	Silver 925	92,5	7,5									
Coatings	Nickel-silver		60,0	9,0	24,0	0,50	0,30	0,05	0,50			
	Gold Silver									Au min. 98,5 Ag min. 98,5		

1) See EN 10088-1 for additional chemical compositions 2) Additions of Mo and V are optional.

## 5 Construction

### 5.1 General

Cutlery manufactured from the materials specified in clause 4 shall be so constructed that it meets all 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** All cutlery shall be essentially 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 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 using normal corrected vision.

### 5.3 Hollow handles

The seams joining hollow handles together shall be watertight.

### 5.4 Knife blades

Stainless steel knife blades shall not be gold plated.

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### 5.5 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 50°.

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.

### 5.6 Sprung fork guards

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