



Designation: E2614 – 08

## Standard Guide for Evaluation of Cleanroom Disinfectants<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2614; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This guide identifies important factors to consider when selecting a disinfectant for use in a cleanroom or similar controlled environment and recommends test methods suitable for evaluating disinfectants. The proper selection of disinfecting agents combined with in-house qualification testing is a key element to a successful disinfection program. Recent publications of regulatory guidance/standards such as Chapter <1072>, “Disinfectants and Antiseptics” in the United States Pharmacopoeia address the issue of disinfectant testing but there is very little published guidance on what criteria and test methods should be used for selection and efficacy testing of disinfectants that will be used in cleanrooms and controlled environments.

1.2 An understanding of microbiology and microbiological techniques is essential. Knowledge in the following areas is recommended: microorganisms, antimicrobial products (disinfectants, sporicides, and decontamination agents), and the chemistry of disinfection, mechanism of activity of disinfectants on cells, application procedures, cleanroom surfaces, and environmental conditions within a cleanroom. This information is available in several published texts listed in the bibliography.

1.3 The theoretical basis for disinfectant activity is not addressed in this guide. An understanding of the effect of disinfectant concentration on microbial reduction (concentration exponent) and kinetics is desirable in determining the use-dilution of different disinfectants and in using dilution to neutralize a disinfectant for efficacy testing. USP chapter <1072> provides further information on this topic.

1.4 Although the information in this guide is written for the cleanroom environment, many of the principles outlined in this standard are applicable to manufacturing/processing environments outside of the cleanroom.

1.5 Evaluation of disinfectants for biofilm control is outside the scope of this document. The reader is referred to Guide E1427.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E35 on Pesticides, Antimicrobials, and Alternative Control Agents and is under the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E35.15 Antimicrobial Agents.

Current edition approved April 1, 2008. Published May 2008. DOI: 10.1520/E2614-08.

1.6 The values state in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

E1427 Guide for Selecting Test Methods to Determine the Effectiveness of Antimicrobial Agents and Other Chemicals for the Prevention, Inactivation and Removal of Biofilm (Withdrawn 2009)<sup>3</sup>

E2111 Quantitative Carrier Test Method to Evaluate the Bactericidal, Fungicidal, Mycobactericidal, and Sporocidal Potencies of Liquid Chemicals

E2197 Quantitative Disk Carrier Test Method for Determining Bactericidal, Virucidal, Fungicidal, Mycobactericidal, and Sporocidal Activities of Chemicals

E2315 Guide for Assessment of Antimicrobial Activity Using a Time-Kill Procedure

#### 2.2 Other Standard:

United States Pharmacopeia 30, Chapter <1072> Disinfectants and Antiseptics, May 1, 2007<sup>4</sup>

AOAC, Chapter 6, 15th Edition Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International, Chapter 6: Disinfectants, 15th ed., 1990<sup>5</sup>

AOAC Chapter 6, 17th Edition Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC International, Chapter 6: Disinfectants, 17th ed., 2000<sup>5</sup>

BS EN 1040 Chemical Disinfectants and Antiseptics—Basic Bactericidal Activity<sup>6</sup>

BS EN 1276 Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics—Quantitative Suspension Test for the Evaluation of Bactericidal Activity of Chemical Disinfectants and Antiseptics

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

<sup>4</sup> Available from U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP), 12601 Twinbrook Pkwy., Rockville, MD 20852-1790, <http://www.usp.org>.

<sup>5</sup> Available from AOAC International, 481 North Frederick Ave., Suite 500, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2417, <http://www.aoc.org>.

<sup>6</sup> Available from British Standards Institute (BSI), 389 Chiswick High Rd., London W4 4AL, U.K., <http://www.bsi-global.com>.

used in Food, Industrial, Domestic, and Institutional Areas<sup>6</sup>

**BS EN 13697** Chemical Disinfectants and Antiseptics—Quantitative Non-Porous Surface Test for the Evaluation of Bactericidal and/or Fungicidal Activity of Chemical Disinfectants used in Food, Industrial, Domestic and Institutional Areas<sup>6</sup>

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *antimicrobial, n*—describes an agent that kills bacteria or suppresses their growth or reproduction.

3.1.2 *bioburden, n*—the number and type of viable microorganisms that can be estimated using prescribed recovery procedures.

3.1.3 *biocide, n*—a physical or chemical agent that kills organisms.

3.1.4 *carrier, n*—a surrogate surface or matrix that facilitates the interaction of test microorganisms and treatment.

3.1.5 *cleanroom, n*—an area equipped with HEPA filtered air and used for aseptic processing.

3.1.6 *contact time, n*—predetermined time that a test microorganism is exposed to the activity of a test material.

3.1.7 *disinfectant, n*—a physical or chemical agent or process that destroys pathogenic or potentially pathogenic microorganisms on inanimate surfaces or objects.

3.1.8 *efficacy, n*—the proven performance of a product established under defined conditions.

3.1.9 *effectiveness, n*—a measure of the performance of a product.

3.1.10 *inoculum, n*—the viable microorganisms used to contaminate a sample, device, or surface, often expressed as to number and type.

3.1.11 *neutralization, n*—the process for inactivating or quenching the activity of a microbiocide, often achieved through physical (for example, filtration or dilution) or chemical means.

3.1.12 *qualification, n*—to determine effectiveness in the context of a given process.

3.1.13 *sanitizer, n*—chemical or physical agent(s) used to reduce the number of microorganisms to a level judged to be appropriate for a defined purpose and/or claim.

3.1.14 *soil load, n*—chemical or physical material(s) included in a test procedure to simulate conditions or use.

3.1.15 *sporicide, n*—chemical or physical agent(s) that kill spores.

3.1.16 *substrate, n*—surface on which an organism can grow

3.1.17 *surfactant, n*—synthetic detergent

#### 3.2 Acronyms:

3.2.1 *MSDS*—Material Safety Data Sheet

### 4. Summary of Guide

4.1 Selecting and qualifying the appropriate disinfection agents is an integral factor in developing a compliant cleaning and disinfection program for a cleanroom. Significant factors to consider when selecting disinfectants for use in cleanrooms and controlled environments are discussed in this guide. A summary of the most common test methods used to determine disinfectant effectiveness is also presented.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Requirements for aseptic processing areas include readily cleanable floors, walls, and ceilings that have smooth, non-porous surfaces; particulate, temperature, and humidity controls; and cleaning and disinfecting procedures to produce and maintain aseptic conditions. These conditions combined with careful and thorough evaluation of the chemical agents used for the cleaning and disinfection program should lead to achieving the specified cleanliness standards and control of microbial contamination of products. In recent years, the use of disinfectants in pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device facilities, and associated controlled environments has been the subject of scrutiny by regulatory agencies.

5.2 An effective cleaning and disinfection program in aseptic processing areas of a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility is critical to assure the quality of the products. Manufacturers are being held to a high standard when it comes to product sterility and regulatory agencies are increasingly asking for validation data to support sanitization and disinfection procedures. Regulatory authorities now expect evidence of the efficacy of disinfection agents against environmental isolates. The FDA Guideline for Aseptic Processing states, “the suitability, efficacy, and limitations of disinfecting agents and procedures should be assessed. The effectiveness of these disinfectants and procedures should be measured by their ability to ensure that potential contaminants are adequately removed from surfaces.”<sup>7</sup>

5.3 Basic knowledge regarding the effectiveness of different chemical agents against vegetative bacteria, fungi, and spores will aid in selecting chemical agents.

5.4 A good understanding of test methods used to assess disinfectant effectiveness is important. Most methods are adaptable allowing the user to customize the methods to their specific requirements.

### 6. Procedure

#### 6.1 Selection Procedure:

6.1.1 In pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and associated industries, the selection of one sanitizer, one or two disinfectants, and one sporicide is typical. More than one type of chemical agent is needed to obtain the proper balance of effective microbial control and minimal surface damage because products vary in spectrum of activity and formulation. Currently, most facilities select one or two disinfecting agents to use on a

<sup>7</sup> FDA Guideline for Industry: Sterile Drug Products Produced by Aseptic Processing—Current Good Manufacturing Process, September 2004. Available at <http://www.fda.gov/cder/guidance/index.htm>