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Smernice za validacijo kvalitativnih informativnih metod za detekcijo ostankov veterinarskih zdravil v mleku in mlečnih proizvodih (ISO/PRF TS 23758:2021)

Guidelines for the validation of qualitative screening methods for the detection of residues of veterinary drugs in milk and milk products (ISO/PRF TS 23758:2021)

Leitlinie für die Validierung qualitativer Screening-Methoden zur Detektion von Tierarzneimittelrückständen in Milch und Milcherzeugnissen (ISO/PRF TS 23758:2021)

Lignes directrices pour la validation des méthodes qualitatives de dépistage des résidus de médicaments vétérinaires dans le lait et les produits laitiers (ISO/PRF TS 23758:2021)

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**Guidelines for the validation of
qualitative screening methods for the
detection of residues of veterinary
drugs in milk and milk products**

*Lignes directrices pour la validation des méthodes qualitatives de
dépistage des résidus de médicaments vétérinaires dans le lait et les
produits laitiers*

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Forewords

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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Milk and milk products*, and the International Dairy Federation (IDF), in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 302, *Milk and milk products — Methods of sampling and analysis*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement). It is being published jointly by ISO and IDF.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

IDF (the International Dairy Federation) is a non-profit private sector organization representing the interests of various stakeholders in dairying at the global level. IDF members are organized in National Committees, which are national associations composed of representatives of dairy-related national interest groups including dairy farmers, dairy processing industry, dairy suppliers, academics and governments/food control authorities.

ISO and IDF collaborate closely on all matters of standardization relating to methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products. Since 2001, ISO and IDF jointly publish their International Standards using the logos and reference numbers of both organizations.

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This document was prepared by the IDF *Standing Committee on Analytical Methods for Additives and Contaminants* and ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Milk and milk products*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 302, *Milk and milk products — Methods of sampling and analysis*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement). It is being published jointly by ISO and IDF.

This IDF Reviewed method is equal to an ISO Publicly Available Specification (ISO/PAS) or an ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS) and is therefore published jointly under ISO conditions.

The work was carried out by the IDF-ISO Action Team on A10 of the *Standing Committee on Analytical Methods for Additives and Contaminants* under the aegis of its project leader Dr W. Reybroeck (BE).

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Guidelines for the validation of qualitative screening methods for the detection of residues of veterinary drugs in milk and milk products

1 Scope

This document describes general workflows and protocols for the validation and the verification of qualitative screening tests for the detection of residues of veterinary drugs in liquid milk (raw, pasteurized, UHT and reconstituted milk powders and whey protein extracts) including biological methods. This guideline does not cover the validation of residue analysis by HPLC, UHPLC or LC-MS/MS.

This document is intended to be useful for manufacturers of screening test kits, laboratories validating screening methods or tests, competent authorities and dairies or end users of reagents or tests for the detection of veterinary drug residues in milk products. This document facilitates and improves the validation and verification of screening methods. The goals of this document are a harmonization in validation of methods or tests kits in order for all stakeholders to have full trust in the result of residue screening and to limit the overlap and multiplication of validation work in different laboratories by sharing the validation results generated by an independent laboratory. Furthermore, a harmonized validation and verification procedure allows for comparison of the performance of different screening methods.

This document does not imply that all end users are bound to perform all verification work proposed.

The verification of the correct use of reagents/kits for the detection of antimicrobials is not part of the scope of this document.

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2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

biological method

method that detects cellular responses to analytes

EXAMPLE Inhibition of bacterial growth, immunological test, and receptor test.

3.2

qualitative method

method that gives a yes/no response, with no indication of the concentration of the putative analyte

Note 1 to entry: Bacterial growth inhibition tests which give a result of either “no zone” or “zone of inhibition”.

EXAMPLE 2 Inhibition tests which give a colour change of growth medium.

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EXAMPLE 3 Immunochemical/ligand binding tests, where a response is considered as “above” or “below” a cut-off level; or where analytes with different cross-reactivities are included within the method scope.

EXAMPLE 4 Biosensors.

3.3

matrix

non-analyte portion of the sample Note 1 to entry: Matrices are included in the Scope.

3.4

detection capability

CC β

smallest content of the analyte that can be detected, identified and/or quantified in a sample with an error probability of β

Note 1 to entry: The β error is the probability that the tested sample is truly non-conformant even though a conformant measurement has been obtained.

3.5

cut-off level

response or signal from a screening test which indicates that a sample contains an analyte at or above the screening target concentration

3.6

blank matrix sample

negative control sample

sample from animals with known history of treatment which have not been exposed to the substance in question

Note 1 to entry: If samples from such animals are not available, samples which have been previously confirmed as conformant and not containing residues of the substance of interest by suitably sensitive physicochemical tests can also be acceptable.

Note 2 to entry: See [Table 1](#).

3.7

positive control sample

control sample that is spiked with the test analyte at the screening target concentration

Note 1 to entry: This may, however also be an incurred-positive sample (i.e. sample taken from animals which have been treated with the substance in question) or Certified Reference Material.

3.8

screening target concentration

concentration at which a screening test categorizes the sample as “screen positive” (potentially non-conformant)

Note 1 to entry: This should always be lower than the regulatory limit.

3.9

validation

confirmation, through the provision of objective evidence, that the requirements for a specific intended use or application, such as a test or measurement method, have been fulfilled

Note 1 to entry: Procedure applied in the originator laboratory (manufacturer’s laboratory) or in an independent laboratory.

Note 2 to entry: Validation often determines the fitness for purpose of a method.

**3.10
verification**

procedure applied to a method which has been previously validated in the case of a transfer validation

Note 1 to entry: The verification procedure is applied by a receptor laboratory for the same matrix as initially validated, to demonstrate that the method will work reliably in that laboratory with locally sourced milk and is fit for purpose.

**3.11
originator laboratory**

laboratory that has performed the complete validation of the method

Note 1 to entry: This is by preference an IEC/ISO 17025 accredited independent laboratory and preferably not the laboratory that developed the method. The laboratory should have experience in residue testing and in validation of screening tests for the detection of residues of veterinary drugs in milk.

**3.12
receptor laboratory**

laboratory that will perform the verification of the method

Note 1 to entry: This could be any laboratory interested in using the method.

**3.13
spectrum**

range of substances that a test can detect

Note 1 to entry: Some tests detect several classes of antibiotics and a large number of substances, whereas others are more specific.

**3.14
regulatory limit**

level defined by food legislation for residues in food

Note 1 to entry: Regulatory limits can be MRL, MRPL, RPA.

**3.15
maximum residue limit for veterinary drugs
MRL**

maximum concentration of residue resulting from the use of veterinary drugs that is recommended by the Codex Alimentarius Commission to be legally permitted or recognized as acceptable in food

Note 1 to entry: Antibiotics are used to treat and prevent diseases in animal husbandry and as a result, low residues of antibiotics can be present in food. MRLs are set for pharmacologically active substances used or intended to be used in veterinary medicinal products placed on the market. In the EU the MRLs are set by EMA (European Medicines Agency).

**3.16
minimum required performance limit
MRPL**

minimum content of an analyte in a sample, which at least has to be detected and confirmed

Note 1 to entry: MRPL is intended to harmonize the analytical performance of methods for substances for which no permitted limit has been established.

**3.17
reference point for action
RPA**

level of a residue of a pharmacologically active substance established for control reasons in the case of certain substances for which a maximum residue limit has not been laid down following certain EU regulations

Note 1 to entry: EU Regulation 470/2009 is applicable for maximum residue limits.

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Note 2 to entry: RPAs are currently based on analytical considerations (i.e. the lowest concentration that can be quantified using a validated analytical method). The aim is “to define an analytical concentration for a non-allowed pharmacologically active substance that can be determined by official control laboratories and that is low enough to adequately protect the consumers of food commodities which contain that substance”^[19].

3.18

positive / negative result

result of the test after interpretation of the reading of the test taking into account the (pre-set) cut-off

Note 1 to entry: Positive result: presence of antimicrobial residues (microbial inhibitor test) or presence of residues of veterinary drugs.

Note 2 to entry: Negative result: absence of antimicrobial residues (microbial inhibitor test) or absence of residues of veterinary drugs. Since only screening tests are involved, no judgement about ‘conformant’ or ‘non-conformant’ can be made.

3.19

repeatability limit

value less than or equal to which the absolute difference between two measurement results obtained under repeatability conditions is expected with a probability of 95 %

3.20

probability of detection

POD

proportion of positive analytical outcomes for a qualitative method for a given matrix at a given analyte level or concentration

Note 1 to entry: POD is concentration dependent (AOAC, 2014^[2]).

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4 Principle

Samples of matrix spiked with known levels of analyte are run on the test under validation or verification to determine the detection capability, sensitivity and robustness of the test. Evaluation of the test results determines the tests' suitability for routine use in screening milk for the presence of veterinary residues.

The key requirement for a screening method is its ability to reliably detect the analyte in question at the chosen screening target concentration. The screening target concentration should be chosen to avoid false-negative results, i.e. low enough to ensure that if the analyte in question is present in the sample at the Regulatory Limit, the sample will be classified as 'Screened Positive'.

Both validation and verification should provide the objective evidence that this key requirement is met. Validation should cover the entire matrix/species/analyte combinations claimed within the scope of the method standard operating procedure (SOP). Validation should be as broad as possible to cover the scope of all end users.

Verification should cover the matrix/species/analyte combinations included in the scope of the implementing (receptor) laboratory. The extent of validation required is variable, depending on whether it is a validation or a verification of a transferred method.

The verification does not need to cover the entire spectrum if the implementing laboratory is to be applicable to only a limited scope (e.g. some species and not others, some residues more relevant than others, raw but not UHT [Ultra-High temperature] milk, etc.).

If a receptor laboratory wants to use the method for screening in a different matrix (IDF 2014) not tested by the originator laboratory, the receptor laboratory should test all necessary validation parameters to prove that the method functions for that specific matrix.

5 General requirements for the test/kit

The developer or the manufacturer should provide information regarding methodology, test reagents, additional chemicals not necessarily included in the kit, operating requirements (information about the reading system, cut-off value), test specifications and documentation (extracted from ISO 18330 and ISO 13969). Additionally, the target country(ies) and its/their specific regulatory limits should be known, in order for the test to be evaluated against the appropriate regulatory limits.

Elements of information to be provided by the manufacturer/distributor/lab manager (in case of an in-house developed method) before starting the validation are as follows:

- Test principle, principle of reading and interpretation of the test (including cut-off level or calculation of cut-off).
- Test formats, if relevant (e.g. ampoules/plates).
- Scope of the test:
 - Matrices suitable to be tested: matrices in the scope of the document (see [Clause 1](#)).
 - Animal species producing the milk.
 - Matrices with potential impact (interference) on the result.
- Potential impact of the use of sample preservatives.
- Spectrum of the test: list of veterinary drugs and expected detection capabilities (so far known).
- List with the actual regulatory limits (RL) for the detectable veterinary drugs in the matrix(ces) of concern in the country(ies) of concern.
- Detailed protocol in a language understood by laboratory staff: if minor modifications need to be made to the method according to the matrix/species, they should be announced in the test protocol (kit manual).

6 Reagents

6.1 Standard blank matrix

- The raw milk used is commingled milk coming from at least 4 animals not treated with veterinary drugs within the last 2 months, in mid lactation, and delivering milk with a low to moderate number of somatic cells (e.g. $< 150\ 000\ \text{ml}^{-1}$ for bovine milk). The raw milk is collected in sterile containers and kept below 4 °C. The maximum period for the cold storage of the fresh raw milk should be in line with the definition of fresh raw milk as fixed locally.
- The milk used should be in line with the normal milk produced in the country or area of concern. This means that the composition and quality of the milk should approach the average composition of the milk of the country/region.
- [Table 1](#) gives examples of parameters to consider for 'normal' milk. Actual figures are likely to vary depending on country and region.
- Milk of at least 4 animals is commingled and is considered as a sample of standard blank matrix. At least four (4) such samples should be used for the determination of the detection capability when testing 20 replicates. If 40 or 60 replicates need to be tested to determine the detection capability, eight (8) or twelve (12) different blank milk samples should be used, respectively. At least four (4) different commingled milks should be sourced and used in the verification work (20 replicates).
- The use of thawed or reconstituted lyophilized milk could also be authorized, but strictly on condition. The pre-requisite condition to work with these alternative solutions, is to demonstrate