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**Traditional Chinese medicine — Glass  
cupping device**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Ventouses en verre*

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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.

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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

Cupping therapy has been widely used since ancient times. The glass cupping device is one of the most commonly used types of cupping devices. The quality of the glass cupping device has a direct impact on its safe use and influences the therapeutic efficacy. This document was developed to improve the safety and quality of the glass cupping device.

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# Traditional Chinese medicine — Glass cupping device

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements for the glass cupping device applying negative pressure created by a heat source placed in its inner cavity.

This document includes the requirements for configuration, material, performance, packaging and labelling, as well as appropriate test methods.

This document applies to single-use and multiple-use glass cupping devices.

This document does not apply to the air extraction cupping device covered by ISO 19611.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3585, *Borosilicate glass 3.3 — Properties*

ISO 10993-1, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process*

ISO 10993-4, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 4: Selection of tests for interactions with blood*

ISO 10993-10, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 10: Tests for irritation and skin sensitization*

ISO 10993-18, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 18: Chemical characterization of medical device materials within a risk management process*

ISO/TS 10993-19, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 19: Physico-chemical, morphological and topographical characterization of materials*

ISO 15223-1, *Medical devices — Symbols to be used with medical device labels, labelling and information to be supplied — Part 1: General requirements*

ISO 17664, *Processing of health care products — Information to be provided by the medical device manufacturer for the processing of medical devices*

## 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 <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **cupping**

placing cups on the skin to create localized negative pressure by means of heat or suction pump, thereby affecting the body surface or increasing bloodletting as a result of the *negative pressure* (3.3) within the cups

**3.2 glass cupping device**

device made of glass which is used for *cupping* (3.1)

**3.3 negative pressure**

pressure less than that of the ambient atmosphere

Note 1 to entry: The method of creating negative pressure shall be stated when this term is used.

[SOURCE: ISO 4135:2001, 3.3.10]

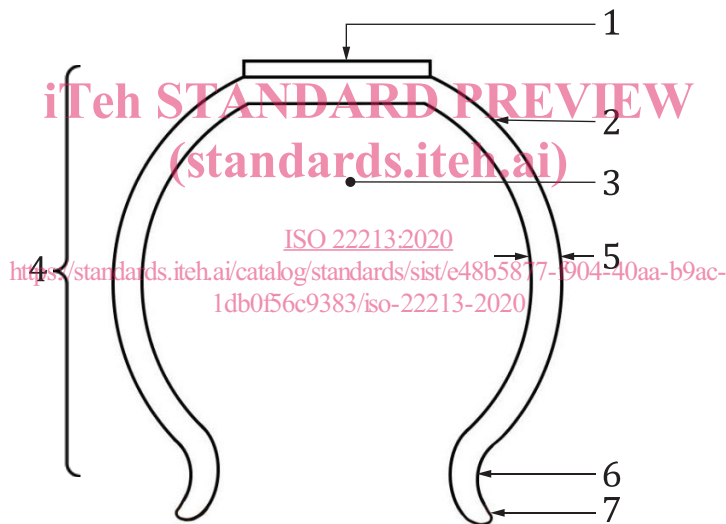
**3.4 instantaneous pressure**

pressure produced inside a *glass cupping device* (3.2) at the instant moment of *cupping* (3.1)

**4 Specification**

**4.1 Configuration**

The typical shape and structure of a glass cupping device are shown in [Figure 1](#).



**Key**

- 1 top of glass cupping device
- 2 external surface
- 3 inner cavity
- 4 glass cupping device body
- 5 glass thickness of device body ( $\delta$ )
- 6 chamfer of glass cupping device
- 7 lip of glass cupping device

**Figure 1 — Typical shape and structure of a glass cupping device**

**4.2 Dimensions and parameters**

**4.2.1 General**

The glass cupping device should be made in one of five sizes numerically coded from 1 to 5.



#### 4.2.2 Volume of the inner cavity

The volume of the inner cavity for each numerically coded cup shall be specified as shown in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1 — Volume of inner cavity**

Dimensions in millilitres

Cup number	Inner volume
1	340 ± 17
2	260 ± 13
3	180 ± 9
4	130 ± 6,5
5	95 ± 4,8

#### 4.2.3 Glass thickness

The glass thickness shall be specified as shown in [Table 2](#).

**Table 2 — Glass thickness**

Dimensions in millimetres

Cup number	Glass thickness $\delta$
1	7,50 ± 0,4
2	6,40 ± 0,3
3	6,30 ± 0,3
4	5,90 ± 0,3
5	4,70 ± 0,2

#### 4.3 Material

The glass cupping device shall be made from borosilicate glass that conforms with ISO 3585.

### 5 Requirements

#### 5.1 Biological compatibility

The glass cupping device shall be evaluated and documented in accordance with the guidance and principles given in ISO 10993-1, ISO 10993-4, ISO 10993-10, ISO 10993-18 and ISO/TS 10993-19.

#### 5.2 Surface smoothness

The external surface, the lip and the top of the glass cupping device shall be smooth, without cracks or burrs.

#### 5.3 Glass quality

The glass cupping device shall have no more than one impurity with a diameter of  $\geq 1,0$  mm. There shall be no more than three impurities with a diameter of  $\geq 0,5$  mm to  $< 1,0$  mm. Cup numbers 1, 2 and 3 shall have no more than two bubbles with a diameter of  $\geq 5,0$  mm. Cup number 4 and cup number 5 shall have no more than three bubbles with a diameter of  $\geq 3,0$  mm. No bubble with a diameter of  $> 5,0$  mm is allowed.