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Traditional Chinese medicine — Detection of irradiated natural products by photostimulated luminescence

Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Détection des produits naturels irradiés par luminescence photostimulée

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Foreword

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

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Introduction

Ionizing radiation (gamma ray, X-ray or beam) is used extensively for the sterilization of medical devices and for a variety of other materials and products. However, irradiation of traditional natural products for sanitation purposes is not permitted by the regulations of most countries. It is necessary to set up a method to identify whether a product has been subjected to irradiation, because overexposure to irradiation can have negative effects on product quality. Irradiation detection methods will help to reduce international trade friction, assist governments in strengthening irradiation supervision and help enterprises to choose non-irradiated raw materials.

Currently, several independent methods are used to identify irradiated foodstuffs. Some of them can be used to identify irradiated natural products. After studying natural products and improving detection rules, photostimulated luminescence (PSL) has become one of the most suitable methods of detection. It is not only a screening method but also a confirmation method with application of F-factor. It can be used widely because of its simplicity and low cost.