
**Biological evaluation of medical
devices —**

**Part 12:
Sample preparation and reference
materials**

Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux —

Partie 12: Préparation des échantillons et matériaux de référence

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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).

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).

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/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194, *Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 206, *Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 10993-12:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- change of scope to cover extractions only for biological evaluation tests;
- harmonization of definitions with ISO 10993-18;
- revision of [10.3.1](#) extraction condition table and [Annex D](#) regarding exhaustive extraction.

A list of all parts in the ISO 10993 series can be found on the ISO website.

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.

Introduction

It is important that sample preparation methods be appropriate for both the biological evaluation methods and the materials being evaluated. Each biological test method requires the selection of materials, extraction solvents and conditions.

This document is based on existing national and international standards and regulations, wherever possible.

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Biological evaluation of medical devices —

Part 12:

Sample preparation and reference materials

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and gives guidance on the procedures in the preparation of samples and the selection of reference materials for medical device testing primarily in biological test systems primarily in accordance with one or more parts of the ISO 10993 series.

Specifically, this document addresses the following:

- test sample selection;
- selection of representative portions from a medical device;
- test sample preparation;
- experimental controls;
- selection of, and requirements for, reference materials;
- preparation of extracts.

This document is not applicable to live cells but can be relevant to the material or medical device components of combination products containing live cells.

Extractions for chemical characterization are covered in ISO 10993-18. [Clause 7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#) [with the exception of 10.3.5 and 10.3.11 b)], and [11](#) can apply to extractions for chemical characterization. Information given in [C.1](#) to [C.4](#) can also be relevant.

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

3.1

blank

extraction vehicle not containing the test material, which is exposed to identical vessels and conditions as the test sample during extraction

Note 1 to entry: The purpose of the blank is to evaluate possible confounding effects due to the extraction vessel, extraction vehicle and extraction process.

3.2

CRM

certified reference material

reference material (RM) characterized by a metrologically valid procedure for one or more specified properties, accompanied by an RM certificate that provides the value of the specified property, its associated uncertainty, and a statement of metrological traceability

Note 1 to entry: The concept of value includes a nominal property or a qualitative attribute such as identity or sequence. Uncertainties for such attributes may be expressed as probabilities or levels of confidence.

Note 2 to entry: Metrologically valid procedures for the production and certification of RMs are given in, among others, ISO 17034 and ISO Guide 35.

Note 3 to entry: ISO Guide 31 gives guidance on the contents of RM certificates.

Note 4 to entry: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007 has an analogous definition (5.14).

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 30:2015, 2.1.2]

3.3

exaggerated extraction

extraction that is intended to result in a greater amount of a chemical constituent being released as compared to the amount generated under the simulated conditions of use

Note 1 to entry: It is important to ensure that the exaggerated extraction does not result in a chemical change of the material.

3.4

exhaustive extraction

extraction conducted until the amount of extractable material in a subsequent extraction is less than 10 % by gravimetric analysis (or that achieved by other means) of that detected in the initial extraction

Note 1 to entry: As it is not possible to demonstrate the exhaustive nature of residual recovery, the definition of exhaustive extraction adopted is as above. See also [Annex C](#).

3.5

experimental control

substance with well-characterized responses, which is used in a specific test system to assist in evaluating if the test system has responded in a reproducible and appropriate manner

3.6

extract

liquid that results from extraction of the test sample or control

3.7

extractable substance

substance that can be released from a medical device or material using either extraction solvents or extraction conditions, or both, that are expected to be at least as aggressive as the conditions of clinical use

3.8

homogeneity

consistency of a material's chemical and physical compositions, and uniformity in response to a biological endpoint

Note 1 to entry: A reference material is said to be homogeneous if the biological response in a specific test is found to lie within the specified uncertainty limits of the test, irrespective of the batch or lot of material from which the test sample is extracted.

3.9

leachable substance

substance that can be released from a medical device or material during clinical use

3.10**negative control**

well-characterized material and/or substance, which, when tested by a specific procedure, demonstrates the suitability of the procedure to yield a reproducible, appropriately negative, non-reactive or minimal response in the test system

Note 1 to entry: In practice, negative controls are reference materials but can include blanks and extraction vehicles/solvents.

3.11**positive control**

well-characterized material and/or substance, which, when evaluated by a specific test method, demonstrates the suitability of the test system to yield a reproducible, appropriately positive or reactive response in the test system

3.12**reference material****RM**

material, sufficiently homogeneous and stable with respect to one or more specified properties, which has been established to be fit for its intended use in a measurement process

Note 1 to entry: RM is a generic term.

Note 2 to entry: Properties can be quantitative or qualitative, e.g. identity of substances or species.

Note 3 to entry: Uses may include the calibration of a measurement system, assessment of a measurement procedure, assigning values to other materials, and quality control.

Note 4 to entry: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007 has an analogous definition (5.13), but restricts the term “measurement” to apply to quantitative values. However, Note 3 of ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 5.13 (VIM), specifically includes qualitative properties, called “nominal properties”.

Note 5 to entry: The laboratory is to demonstrate that the simulated-use extraction is carried out under conditions that provide an appropriate representation of intended use. Product-use simulation is carried out assuming the medical device is assigned to the most stringent category possible for the duration of exposure and takes into consideration both the tissue(s) exposed and the temperature of exposure.

[SOURCE: ISO Guide 30:2015, 2.1.1 — Note 5 to entry has been added.]

3.13**stability**

characteristic of a material, when stored under specified conditions, to maintain a specified property value within specified limits for a specified period of time

Note 1 to entry: See also the IUPAC Compendium of Analytical Nomenclature^[5].

3.14**test sample**

medical device, component or material (or a representative sample thereof, manufactured and processed by equivalent methods), or an extract or portion thereof that is subjected to biological evaluation testing

4 General requirements

When identifying hazards and estimating risk in relation to medical devices, hazards that arise from changes in the manufacturing process, or insufficient control of the manufacturing process, shall be considered in the design and preparation of test samples, as described in ISO 14971. Particular attention shall be given to material additives, unintentional base material impurities and manufacturing process residues, e.g. trace elements and cleaning and disinfection agents.

The ISO 10993 series describes many different biological assay systems. Therefore, the individual parts shall be consulted to ascertain whether these are appropriate for specific test systems.

Experimental controls shall be used in biological evaluations carried out in order to either validate a test procedure or compare the results between materials, or both. Depending on the specifications of a particular test, either negative controls, blanks or positive controls, or all three, shall be used.

NOTE The same type of control can be applicable to different tests and can allow cross-reference to other established materials and test methods. Additional guidance on the selection of experimental controls is given in [Annex A](#). Use of positive controls for *in vivo* testing might be affected by animal welfare regulations.

5 Reference materials (RMs)

5.1 General

RMs are established by individual laboratories. The extent of chemical, physical and biological characterization is determined by the individual laboratory. Commercially available articles may be used as RMs.

NOTE See also ISO Guide 35.

CRMs are selected for their high purity, critical characteristics, suitability for the intended purpose and general availability. The critical chemical, physical and biological characteristics shall be determined by collaborative testing in three or more laboratories and made available to the investigator by the distributor.

It is desirable for users to obtain a commitment from suppliers of RMs or CRMs stating that these materials will be available to the user for at least five years. A second but less desirable option is for the source of the RM or CRM to publish an “open formulation” for the material, i.e. publication of the source materials and details of the processing needed to ensure uniform batches of the RM.

5.2 Certification of RMs for biological safety testing

Qualification of an RM is a procedure that establishes the numerical or qualitative value of the biological response of the material under specified test conditions, ensuring reproducibility of the response either within laboratories or between laboratories, or both. The range of biological responses associated with the material shall be established through laboratory tests.

NOTE See also ISO 17034.

Suppliers of RMs shall certify the materials. The supplier determines the extent of chemical and physical characterization that is performed. The individual laboratories that use the RM shall identify the biological characterization necessary to qualify an RM for a specific test or procedure. Commercially available materials may be used as RMs, provided they are certified and qualified.

Certification of a RM is a procedure that establishes the numerical or qualitative value of the biological response of the material under the specified test conditions. This process serves to validate the testing of the material for that particular response and results in the issuance of a certificate. The biological response of the material shall be established through interlaboratory tests.

6 Use of RMs as experimental controls

RMs or CRMs shall be used in biological tests as control materials to demonstrate the suitability of a procedure to yield a reproducible response, i.e. positive or negative, or both. Any material used in this way shall be characterized with each biological test procedure for which the use of the material is desired. A material characterized and then certified for one reference test method or response, for