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Biotechnology — Nucleic acid synthesis — Part 2: Requirements for the production and quality control of synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes

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Contents-	Page
Foreword	viii
Introduction	ix
1 — Scope	1
2 — Normative references	1
3 — Terms and definitions	1
4 — Requirements for quality management	4
4.1 — General requirements	4
4.2 — Control of documents	4
4.3 — Quality management system	5
4.4 — Biorisk management and safety control	5
5 — Requirements for resource management	5
5.1 — Facilities and environmental condition	5
5.2 — Equipment and instruments	6
5.3 — Raw materials	6
5.4 — Personnel	6
6 — Biosafety and biosecurity requirements	7
6.1 — General	7
6.2 — DNA sequence screening mechanism	7
7 — Requirements for quality control in production	8
7.1 — General	8
7.2 — Quality control in synthetic gene fragments production	8
7.2.1 — General	8
7.2.2 — Sequence design	8
7.2.3 — Assembly	8
7.2.4 — Purification	8
7.2.5 — Product preservation	8
7.3 — Quality control in synthetic gene production	8
7.3.1 — General	8
7.3.2 — Colony screening	9
7.3.3 — DNA preparation from the host cell	9
7.3.4 — Sequence verification	9
7.3.5 — Product preservation	9
7.4 — Quality control in synthetic genome production	9
7.4.1 — General	9
7.4.2 — Assembly	10
7.4.3 — Sequence verification	10
8 — Requirements for product quality	10
8.1 — Synthetic gene fragments	10
8.1.1 — General	10
8.1.2 — Yield	10
8.1.3 — Purity	10
8.1.4 — Size	10
8.1.5 — Gene cloning accuracy	11
8.2 — Synthetic genes	11
8.2.1 — General	11
8.2.2 — Yield	11
8.2.3 — Purity	11

8.2.4	Sequence	11
8.2.5	Integrity	11
8.2.6	Residual impurities analysis	12
8.2.7	Supercoiled plasmid	12
8.2.8	Bioburden	12
8.2.9	Specific quality indicators for synthetic DNA libraries	12
8.3	Synthetic genome	13
8.3.1	General	13
8.3.2	Sequence	13
9	Delivered/synthesized material specifications	13
9.1	Main information	13
9.2	Other information	13
Annex A (informative) Example equipment and device list and their control requirements		14
Annex B (informative) Exemplary quality measurement methods		16
B.1	Test methods of synthetic nucleic acid purity	16
B.2	Test methods of synthetic nucleic acid yield	16
B.3	Measurement of synthetic nucleic acid integrity	17
B.4	Sequencing	17
Annex C (informative) Electrophoretogram		18
Annex D (informative) Sanger sequencing		24
Annex E (informative) Massively parallel sequencing		26
E.1	General	26
E.2	DNA sequencing	26
E.2.1	Sample pooling	26
E.2.2	Library construction	26
E.2.2.1	Fragmentation and end repair	26
E.2.2.2	Amplification and barcoding	26
E.2.2.3	Procedure before DNA sequencing	26
E.2.3	DNA sequencing on MPS platform	27
E.3	Data analysis	27
E.3.1	Raw data filtering	27
E.3.2	Alignment	27
E.3.3	Depth and coverage calculation	27
E.3.4	Single nucleotide variations (SNV)/indel calling	27
E.3.5	Candidate gene judgment	27
Annex F (informative) Additional quality control options for synthetic gene fragments		30
F.1	Cloning accuracy	30
F.2	Sequence	30
Annex G (informative) Example ranking of the risk posed by DNA products		32
Bibliography		33

Foreword	viii
Introduction	ix
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Requirements for quality management	4
4.1 General requirements	4
4.2 Control of documents	4
4.3 Quality management system	5
4.4 Biorisk management and safety control	5
5 Requirements for resource management	5
5.1 Facilities and environmental condition	5
5.2 Equipment and instruments	6
5.3 Raw materials	6
5.4 Personnel	6
6 Biosafety and biosecurity requirements	7
6.1 General	7
6.2 DNA sequence screening mechanism	7
7 Requirements for quality control in production	8
7.1 General	8
7.2 Quality control in synthetic gene fragments production	8
7.2.1 General	8
7.2.2 Sequence design	8
7.2.3 Assembly	8
7.2.4 Purification	8
7.2.5 Product preservation	8
7.3 Quality control in synthetic gene production	8
7.3.1 General	8
7.3.2 Colony screening	9
7.3.3 DNA preparation from the host cell	9
7.3.4 Sequence verification	9
7.3.5 Product preservation	9
7.4 Quality control in synthetic genome production	9
7.4.1 General	9
7.4.2 Assembly	10
7.4.3 Sequence verification	10
8 Requirements for product quality	10
8.1 Synthetic gene fragments	10
8.1.1 General	10
8.1.2 Yield	10
8.1.3 Purity	10
8.1.4 Size	10
8.1.5 Gene cloning accuracy	11
8.2 Synthetic genes	11
8.2.1 General	11
8.2.2 Yield	11
8.2.3 Purity	11
8.2.4 Sequence	11
8.2.5 Integrity	11
8.2.6 Residual impurities analysis	12

8.2.7 Supercoiled plasmid	12
8.2.8 Bioburden	12
8.2.9 Specific quality indicators for synthetic DNA libraries	12
8.3 Synthetic genome	13
8.3.1 General	13
8.3.2 Sequence	13
9 Delivered/synthesized material specifications	13
9.1 Main information	13
9.2 Other information	13
Annex A (informative) Example equipment and device list and their control requirements	14
Table A.1 — List of equipment and devices and their control requirements	14
Annex B (informative) Exemplary quality measurement methods	16
B.1 Test methods of synthetic nucleic acid purity	16
B.2 Test methods of synthetic nucleic acid yield	16
B.3 Measurement of synthetic nucleic acid integrity	17
Table B.1 — Recommended agarose concentration for different DNA length in electrophoresis	17
Table B.2 — Recommended agarose concentration for different DNA length in pulse field electrophoresis	17
B.4 Sequencing	17
Annex C (informative) Electrophoretogram	18
Figure C.1 — Electrophoretogram of plasmid DNA (1 % agarose gel)	20
Figure C.2 — Restriction digestion analysis of synthetic gene of 246 bp in 3.1 kb vector (1 % agarose gel)	21
Figure C.3 — Restriction digestion analysis of synthetic gene of 1.7 kb in 2.7 kb vector (1 % agarose gel)	22
Figure C.4 — Restriction digestion analysis of synthetic gene of 6.1 kb in 2.1 kb vector (1 % agarose gel)	23
Annex D (informative) Sanger sequencing	24
Figure D.1 — Verification of a GFYgene by Sanger sequencing	25
Annex E (informative) Massively parallel sequencing	26
E.1 General	26
E.2 DNA sequencing	26
E.2.1 Sample pooling	26
E.2.2 Library construction	26
E.2.2.1 Fragmentation and end repair	26
E.2.2.2 Amplification and barcoding	26
E.2.2.3 Procedure before DNA sequencing	26
E.2.3 DNA sequencing on MPS platform	27
E.3 Data analysis	27
E.3.1 Raw data filtering	27

E.3.2 Alignment	27
E.3.3 Depth and coverage calculation	27
E.3.4 Single nucleotide variations (SNV)/indel calling	27
E.3.5 Candidate gene judgment	27
Figure E.1 — Sequencing report generated automatically (not all displayed)	29
Annex F (informative) Additional quality control options for synthetic gene fragments	30
F.1 Cloning accuracy	30
F.2 Sequence	30
Table F.1 — Recommended screening of linear gene fragments	30
Annex G (informative) Example ranking of the risk posed by DNA products	32
Bibliography	33

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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 document 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 276, *Biotechnology*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20688 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

Gene fragment, gene and genome synthesis refer to producing synthetic double-stranded DNA in the form of non-clonal fragments (that can be linear) and clonal genes in plasmids (that would be circular) by using appropriate biochemical methods.

Synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes are important biotechnological products and are widely used in biotechnology, e.g. protein engineering, metabolic engineering, antibody and vaccine development, environmental bioremediation and natural product discovery.

The production and quality control of the synthesized gene fragment, gene and genome products are essential for ensuring the quality and their downstream applications in biotechnology. This document provides requirements for the production and quality control of synthetic gene fragment, gene and genome products, including biosecurity, purity, yield, size, gene cloning accuracy, integrity, sequences, residual impurities and other quality indicators. This document provides a uniform general guideline for the quality control of gene fragments, genes and genomes synthesis. It is intended to help to improve and ensure the quality of products and fair trade based on a unified standard.

This document is intended to be used by synthetic DNA producers during the manufacturing process for quality control to improve the quality of their products, by academic laboratories to evaluate the quality of DNA synthesized in their facilities, and by end users to verify the quality of synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes provided by manufacturers as required.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Biotechnology — Nucleic acid synthesis — Part 2: Requirements for the production and quality control of synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes

1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements for the production and quality control of synthesized double-stranded DNA. It describes requirements for quality management, resource management, biosafety and biosecurity, quality control in production, product quality, and delivered product specifications for synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes.

This document is applicable to synthetic gene fragments, genes and genomes with a length below 10 Mbp (base pairs) in forms of non-clonal fragments (linear) and clonal genes in plasmids (circular).

This document does not provide specific requirements for materials used solely for diagnostic purposes.

When the synthesized nucleic acids are procured and used for diagnostic purposes, the user can take ISO 15189, ISO 13485 and other related clinical standards into account.

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 terminology 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

biosafety

practices and controls that reduce the risk of unintentional exposure or release of biological materials

Note 1 to entry: Biological materials refer to any material comprised of, containing, or that may contain **biological agents** and/or their harmful products, such as toxins and allergens (see ISO 35001:2019, 3.14).

Note 2 to entry: Biological agents refer to any microbiological entity, cellular or non-cellular, naturally occurring or engineered, capable of replication or of transferring genetic material that may be able to provoke infection, allergy, toxicity or other adverse effects in humans, animals, or plants (see ISO 35001:2019, 3.13).

[SOURCE: ISO 35001:2019, 3.22, modified — Notes to entry were added.]

3.2

biosecurity

practices and controls that reduce the risk of loss, theft, misuse, diversion of, or intentional unauthorized release of biological materials

[SOURCE: ISO 35001:2019, 3.23, modified — Notes to entry were deleted.]

3.3

colony polymerase chain reaction

colony PCR

~~colony polymerase chain reaction~~

PCR method used to screen for plasmids containing a desired insert directly from microbial colonies without plasmid extraction and purification steps

3.4

DNA assembly

joining oligonucleotides or smaller gene fragments via regions of complementarity to form a longer double-stranded DNA fragment step by step *in vitro* or *in vivo*

3.5

DNA sequencing

determining the order of nucleotide bases (adenine, guanine, cytosine and thymine) in a molecule of DNA

Note 1 to entry: Sequence is generally described from the 5' end.

[SOURCE: ISO 17822:2020, 3.19]

3.6

gene cloning

process of introducing a particular gene or DNA sequence using genetic engineering techniques into a host cell and replicating it by asexual reproduction into many identical copies of the gene

3.7

~~MPS~~

massively parallel sequencing

MPS

sequencing technique based on the determination of incremental template-based polymerization of many independent DNA molecules simultaneously

Note 1 to entry: Massively parallel sequencing technology can provide millions/billions of short reads per run or long reads based on amplification.

[SOURCE: ISO 20397-2:2021, 3.30, modified — Note to entry was edited by adding "or long reads based on amplification."]

3.8

plasmid vector

extrachromosomal DNA molecule in cells physically separated from the chromosome and capable of autonomous replication that can be used as vehicle to carry new genes into cells

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2022, 3.4.37, modified — "vector" added to the term, and "that can be used as vehicle to carry new genes into cells" added to the definition (from ISO 16577:2022, 3.4.58). Notes to entry deleted.]

3.9

quality score

Q score

measure of the sequencing quality of a given nucleotide base

Note 1 to entry: *Q* is defined by the following formula: