International Standard

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Cosmetics — Microbiology — Microbiological limits

Cosmétiques — Microbiologie — Limites microbiologiques

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 392, *Cosmetics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17516:2014), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

The changes are as follows:

— Clause 2 has been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered;

— the bibliography has been updated.

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Introduction

Every cosmetic manufacturer has a responsibility relative to the microbiological safety and quality of its products to ensure that they have been produced under hygienic conditions. Cosmetic products are not expected to be sterile. However, they shall not contain excessive amounts of microorganisms nor specified microorganisms that have the potential to affect the product quality or consumer safety. Moreover, some cosmetic products which are considered to have low microbiological risk (see ISO 29621 [1]) may not need to be subjected to routine microbiological testing, and manufacturers can decide not to test if they can ensure products meet this standard.

The manufacturer should follow the Good Manufacturing Practices described in ISO 22716 [2] and take the necessary precautions to limit the introduction of microorganisms from raw materials, processing and packaging. When necessary, microbiological testing may be performed using ISO 21148 [3], ISO 21149 [4], ISO 16212 [5], ISO 18415 [6], ISO 18416 [7], ISO 21150 [8], ISO 22717 [9] and ISO 22718 [10].

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