
**Traditional Chinese Medicine —
Determination of heavy metals in
herbal medicines used in Traditional
Chinese Medicine**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Dosage des métaux lourds dans les
herbes médicinales utilisées dans la médecine traditionnelle chinoise*

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

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Introduction

Heavy metals are natural constituents of the environment, and are commonly detected in air, water and soil. However, technical and industrial processes may release heavy metals into the environment, and they have gained attention as contaminants. At present, there is no uniformly accepted International Standard which defines maximum limits for heavy metals in materials used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), resulting in disputes about what levels should be considered acceptable in TCM materials.

ISO 18664 was developed in response to worldwide demand for harmonization of the determination of heavy metals in herbal medicines used in TCM. The International Standard is applicable to Traditional Medicine systems derived from ancient Chinese medicine.

For reference, the maximum limits of heavy metals in natural materials of TCM have been provided in [Annex A](#).

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