
**Textiles — Determination of
antibacterial activity of textile
products**

*Textiles — Détermination de l'activité antibactérienne des produits
textiles*

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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).

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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 38, *Textiles*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 248, *Textiles and textile products*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 20743:2013), which has been technically revised.

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

- [Clause 2](#) has been updated;
- some NOTES have been changed to regular text;
- [Annex F](#) has been updated.

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

Specialty products of antibacterial-treated textiles have been introduced in the market and are expanding year by year in various applications. These textiles meet the consumer's requirement to seek prevention of, and protection from, the negative effects caused by bacteria, which in turn secures the quality of life.

This established a substantial need for an International Standard which covers test methods to determine the antibacterial activity for antibacterial textile products.

A qualitative test method for antibacterial activity was developed as ISO 20645. At the time, there were no testing standards for the quantitative method which gives more objective information for the antibacterial activity of the textile products.

Although there are 6 ways for the combination of inoculation methods and quantitative measurements to execute this test, the choice of the ways depends on the user's availability and consensus between the concerned parties.

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