
**Water quality — General requirements
and guidance for microbiological
examinations by culture**

*Qualité de l'eau — Exigences et lignes directrices générales pour les
examens microbiologiques sur milieu de culture*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction	vii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	4
5 General measurement requirements	4
5.1 Uniformity of temperatures	4
5.2 Incubation times	4
5.3 Volumes and masses	4
6 Diluents and culture media	5
6.1 General	5
6.2 Quality requirements of ingredients	5
6.3 Diluents	5
7 Sterilization and decontamination	5
7.1 Sterilization of apparatus and glassware	5
7.2 Sterilization of consumables	6
7.3 Decontamination of glassware and materials after use	6
7.4 Waste management	6
8 Samples and sample handling	6
8.1 Sampling	6
8.2 Sample preparation	7
8.2.1 Waters and other aqueous matrices	7
8.2.2 Swabs	7
9 Enumeration (quantitative) methods	8
9.1 Inoculation of test portions in (or on) solid media	8
9.1.1 General	8
9.1.2 Pour plate technique	8
9.1.3 Spread plate technique	9
9.1.4 Membrane filtration technique	10
9.1.5 Incubation	12
9.1.6 Counting and confirmation from solid media	12
9.1.7 General guidance for calculation of results	13
9.1.8 Expression of results	14
9.2 Enumeration using a liquid medium	24
9.2.1 General	24
9.2.2 Procedure	25
9.2.3 Choice of inoculation system	25
9.2.4 Incubation	26
9.2.5 Interpretation of results	26
9.2.6 Uncertainty of test results	27
9.2.7 Determination of MPN values	27
10 Detection (qualitative) methods	30
10.1 General	30
10.2 Procedure	31
10.3 Uncertainty of test results	31
11 Performance characteristics of methods	31
12 Analytical quality control	32
12.1 General	32

12.2	Internal quality control.....	32
12.2.1	General.....	32
12.2.2	Process controls	32
12.3	External quality assessment.....	33
Annex A	(informative) Criteria for the choice of technique.....	35
Annex B	(informative) Confidence intervals for colony count technique and choice of method of calculation in special cases.....	40
Annex C	(normative) Counting and calculations with two Petri dishes per dilution.....	44
Annex D	(normative) Composition, preparation and performance testing of diluents	51
Bibliography		55

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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).

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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 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Microbiological methods*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 8199:2005), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared with the previous edition are as follows.

- <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/8199-2018> Clauses have been added for terms and definitions, detection (qualitative) methods, performance characteristics and analytical quality control (AQC).
- The clauses referencing culture media and diluent preparation and QC have been revised to align with ISO 11133 and have been included in a new [Annex D](#).
- The subclause on general guidance for the calculation of results for solid media techniques has been updated to reflect the changes in ISO 7218:2007/Amd.1:2013^[9] on which the relevant clauses and subclauses in the second edition were based. Modifications have been made, however, to take account of water microbiology techniques (e.g. membrane filtration) and to allow for dilutions other than ten-fold dilutions.
- [Annex B](#) has been added to give guidance on confidence intervals when calculating special cases, relating to the update of the subclause on general guidance for the calculation of results for solid media techniques.
- [Annex C](#) has been added to describe calculations when using duplicate dishes per dilution, relating to the update of the subclause on general guidance for the calculation of results for solid media techniques.
- The subclause relating to enumeration using liquid media had been expanded and includes additional guidance on the use of MPN calculators. The former [Annex B](#) containing MPN tables has been removed.
- The title of this document has been amended to reflect these changes.

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.

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Introduction

Techniques for the detection and enumeration of microorganisms based on their ability to grow on or in specified culture media are an important and widely used means of assessing the microbiological quality of water. The purpose of this document is to gather in a single document the information common to the various techniques. This reduces repetition of technical details in individual standards and facilitates choice of the technique most suitable for a particular situation. Other guidance has been included on general topics of relevance to these techniques, such as analytical quality control, method performance characteristics and uncertainty of test results.

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