
Varovalna obleka - Zahteve za učinkovitost in preskusne metode za varovalno obleko proti povzročiteljem infekcije (ISO/DIS 22615:2025)

Protective clothing - Performance requirements and test methods for protective clothing against infective agents (ISO/DIS 22615:2025)

Schutzkleidung - Leistungsanforderungen und Prüfverfahren für Schutzkleidung gegen Infektionserreger (ISO/DIS 22615:2025)

Habillement de protection - Exigences de performance et méthodes d'essai pour les vêtements de protection contre les agents infectieux (ISO/DIS 22615:2025)

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ISO/DIS 22615

Protective clothing — Performance requirements and test methods for protective clothing against infective agents

Vêtements de protection — Exigences de performance et méthodes d'essai pour les vêtements de protection contre les agents infectieux

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 94, *Personal safety - Protective clothing and equipment*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Protective clothing*.

This first edition has been draft based on the EN 14126:2003^[1].

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

Protective clothing against infective agents has two main functions:

- To minimize or prevent infective agents from reaching the (possibly injured) skin;
- To prevent the spreading of infective agents to other people and other situations, e.g. eating or drinking, close contact with others when the person has taken his protective clothing off.

In many work situations, e.g. microbiological laboratories, biotechnological production, etc. the infective agents can be contained and the risk of exposure is limited to the occurrence of an accident. In these situations, the agents, to which the worker can be exposed, are usually well known. In other types of work, the organisms cannot be contained, exposing the worker continuously to the risk of infection by biological agents. This happens e.g. in sewage work, waste treatment, caring for animals infected with zoonotic agents, emergency clean-up, treatment of hospital risk waste etc. In these situations, the agents the workers are exposed to, may not be known, although possible risks can be assessed.

During pandemics, depending on the virus risk category, viral transmission means and the working environment, surgical gowns may not always necessarily provide adequate protection of the wearer (either due to the design or the nature of the material & seams).

Micro-organisms are a very heterogeneous group of organisms as to their size, shape, living conditions, infective dose, survival abilities and many other parameters. Their size alone can vary from 30 nm (poliovirus) to 5 µm to 10 µm (bacteria) and even larger (most fungi). A hazard classification of micro-organisms can be found in European Directive 2000/54/EEC (on the protection of workers from the risk related to exposure to biological agents at work).

Due to the heterogeneity of micro-organisms, it is not possible to define performance criteria on the basis of risk groups, nor on the type of micro-organism. Also it may not be possible to define exactly the organisms the worker is exposed to. Hence the test methods specified in this standard focus on the medium containing the micro-organism, such as a liquid, an aerosol or a solid dust particle. A risk analysis should determine which ones of these risks are present in a given situation.

This standard was inspired by EN 14126:2003^[1] and ANSI AAMI PB 70:2022^[2].

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