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BS EN 12791:2016



BSI Standards Publication

Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics — Surgical hand disinfection — Test method and requirements (phase 2, step 2)

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This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 12791:2016. It supersedes BS EN 12791:2005 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CH/216, Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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© The British Standards Institution 2016.
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2016

ISBN 978 0 580 83106 5

ICS 11.080.20

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 29 February 2016.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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EUROPÄISCHE NORM

February 2016

ICS 11.080.20

Supersedes EN 12791:2005

English Version

Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics - Surgical hand disinfection - Test method and requirements (phase 2, step 2)

Antiseptiques et désinfectants chimiques - Désinfection chirurgicale des mains - Méthodes d'essai et prescriptions (phase 2/étape 2)

Chemische Desinfektionsmittel und Antiseptika - Chirurgische Händedesinfektionsmittel - Prüfverfahren und Anforderungen (Phase 2, Stufe 2)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 13 December 2015.

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European foreword

This document (EN 12791:2016) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 216 "Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2016, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2016.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 12791:2005.

It was revised to adapt it to the latest state of science, to correct errors and ambiguities, to harmonize the structure and wording with other tests of CEN TC 216 existing or in preparation and to improve the readability of the standard and thereby make it more understandable. The following technical changes have been made:

- neutralization (5.5.1.2);
- the number of volunteers (5.5.1.4);
- no rinse after the disinfection (5.5.3.2.2);
- the statistical evaluation (5.8);
- the annexes have been completely revised.

Data obtained using the former version of EN 12791 may still be used, if it is supplemented by data on neutralization, additional results from more volunteers and the new statistical evaluation of the "mixed" (old and new) set of data. The additional results should be obtained preferably in the same laboratory and with volunteers not having participated in the previous ("old") study. If the neutralizer used in the test using the former version is not sufficiently neutralizing a complete new test should be run.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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1 Scope

This European Standard specifies a test method simulating practical conditions for establishing whether a product for surgical handrub and handwash reduces the release of resident and eventually present transient microbial flora on hands when used for the treatment of clean hands of volunteers.

This European Standard applies to products for surgical handrub or handwash for use in areas and situations where disinfection is medically indicated. Such indications occur in patient care, for example:

- in hospitals, in community medical facilities and in dental institutions;
- in clinics of schools, of kindergartens and of nursing homes.

and may occur in the workplace and in the home. It may also include services such as laundries and kitchens supplying products directly for the patient.

EN 14885 specifies in detail the relationship of the various tests to one another and to “use recommendations”.

NOTE This method corresponds to a phase 2, step 2 test.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 13624, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics - Quantitative suspension test for the evaluation of fungicidal or yeasticidal activity in the medical area - Test method and requirements (phase 2, step 1)*

EN 13727:2012+A2:2015, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics — Quantitative suspension test for the evaluation of bactericidal activity in the medical area — Test method and requirements (phase 2, step 1)*

EN 14885, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics - Application of European Standards for chemical disinfectants and antiseptics*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 14885 apply.

4 Requirements

The mean reduction for immediate effect and 3 h effect of a product shall - when tested in accordance with Clause 5 - at least be not inferior to that achieved by a specified reference product (60 % volume concentration of propan-1-ol).

To demonstrate additionally a “sustained effect”, the mean reduction for the 3 h effect of a product shall be superior to that achieved by the reference product.

5 Test methods

5.1 Principle

A specified preparatory handwash (pre-wash) is carried-out on volunteers in order to remove most of the transient flora and foreign material, which could otherwise influence the “prevalues”, i.e. the