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**BS EN 14885:2015**



**BSI Standards Publication**

# **Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics — Application of European Standards for chemical disinfectants and antiseptics**

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This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 14885:2015. It supersedes BS EN 14885:2006 which is withdrawn.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.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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

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## EUROPÄISCHE NORM

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English Version

## Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics - Application of European Standards for chemical disinfectants and antiseptics

Antiseptiques et désinfectants chimiques - Application des Normes européennes sur les antiseptiques et désinfectants chimiques

Chemische Desinfektionsmittel und Antiseptika - Anwendung Europäischer Normen für chemische Desinfektionsmittel und Antiseptika

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 3 July 2015.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of 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 United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (EN 14885:2015) 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 February 2016, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 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 14885:2006.

EN 14885:2006 was revised to update the information on existing standards, to include standards published since 2006 and to give more details how to use the standards for making claims. CEN/TC 216 has prepared a series of standards on chemical disinfectants and antiseptics specifying requirements and test methods. The purpose of this European Standard is to specify the relationship of the various standards to one another and to claims and use recommendations.

To allow for different requirements in different areas of application, separate tests and pass criteria have been or will be prepared for each of the following three areas of application: medical, veterinary, and a group comprising food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas.

This European Standard only refers to test methods which are currently included in the work programme of CEN/TC 216 and which are described in Clause 2. It is likely that additional standards which relate to specific situations, e.g. chemical disinfection of textiles, will be produced at a later time.

This document was revised to adapt it to the latest state of science, to correct errors and ambiguities, to harmonize the structure and wording and to improve its readability and thereby make it more understandable. The following is a list of significant changes since the last edition:

- some definitions were added, some were changed;
- the relevance of phase 1 tests was clarified;
- the relationship between claims for a given product and test results is described in greater detail;
- the use of standards outside their defined scope is now defined;
- the fields of application in the different areas are described in much greater detail;
- recommendations how to deal with the imprecision of the test methods are given;
- recommendations how to use the standards for proficiency testing (quality control) are given;
- the impact of changes of standards are defined;
- the main aims, scope, safety aspects, design, performance and evaluation of results of phase 3 tests (field tests) are described.

The changes mentioned above have no impact on the use of test results obtained with reference to the former version of EN 14885.

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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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## Introduction

This European Standard specifies the laboratory methods to be used for testing the activity of products, i.e. chemical disinfectants and antiseptics in order to support claims that they have specific properties appropriate to their intended application. These laboratory methods may also be used for active substances and products under development. This European Standard is not intended to represent disinfection policy guidelines, i.e. guidelines for choosing and assessing the suitability of products for particular situations.

The CEN standards relate to only a limited range of microbial species. These have been chosen as representative species taking into account their relative resistance and their relevance to practical use. The handling properties and the microbiological safety have also been considered in choosing the test organisms.

The test methods in this European Standard are based on the current scientific state of the art. It is recognized that at the present time there is only limited knowledge regarding the relationship between the activity of products as determined by suspension as compared with surface tests, and the relevance of the results of both tests to conditions of use.

Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics should always be used responsibly. This should take into account the environmental impact of inappropriate product in-use concentrations (too high or too low) and of unnecessary use.

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## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies the European Standards to which products have to conform in order to support the claims for microbicidal activity which are referred to in this European Standard.

This European Standard also specifies terms and definitions which are used in European Standards.

It is applicable to products for which activity is claimed against the following microorganisms: vegetative bacteria (including mycobacteria and *Legionella*), bacterial spores, yeasts, fungal spores and viruses (including bacteriophages).

It is intended to:

- a) enable manufacturers of products to select the appropriate standards to be used in order to provide data which support their claims for a specific product;
- b) enable users of the product to assess the information provided by the manufacturer in relation to the use for which they intend to use the product;
- c) assist regulatory authorities in assessing claims made by the manufacturer or by the person responsible for placing the product on the market.

It is applicable to products to be used in the area of human medicine, the veterinary area and in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas.

In the area of human medicine, it is applicable to chemical disinfectants and antiseptics to be used in areas and situations where disinfection or antiseptics is medically indicated. Such indications occur in patient care

- in hospitals, in community medical facilities and dental institutions,
- in clinics of schools, of kindergartens and of nursing homes,
- and may also occur in the workplace and in the home. It may also include services such as in laundries and kitchens supplying products directly for the patient.

In the veterinary area it is applicable to chemical disinfectants and antiseptics to be used in the areas of breeding, husbandry, production, transport and disposal of animals. It is not applicable to chemical disinfectants used in the food chain following death and entry to the processing industry.

In food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas it is applicable to chemical disinfectants and antiseptics to be used in processing, distribution and retailing of food of animal or vegetable origin. It is also applicable to products for all public areas where disinfection is not medically indicated (homes, catering, schools, nurseries, transports, hotels, offices etc.) and products used in packaging, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, cosmetic etc. industries.

This European Standard is also applicable to active substances and products under development for which no area of application has yet been specified.

This European Standard does not refer to methods for testing the toxicological and ecotoxicological properties of products or active substances.