



BSI Standards Publication

Cosmetics — Microbiology — Detection of *Escherichia coli*

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This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 21150:2015+A1:2022. It is identical to ISO 21150:2015, incorporating amendment 1:2022. It supersedes BS EN ISO 21150:2009, which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to ISO text carry the number of the ISO amendment. For example, text altered by ISO amendment 1 is indicated by A1 A1.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CW/217, Cosmetics.

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

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Kosmetische Mittel - Mikrobiologie - Nachweis von Escherichia coli (ISO 21150:2015)

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 21150:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217 "Cosmetics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 392 "Cosmetics" 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2016, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2016.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 ISO 21150:2009.

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The text of ISO 21150:2015 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 21150:2015 without any modification.

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European foreword to Amendment 1

This document (EN ISO 21150:2015/A1:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217 "Cosmetics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 392 "Cosmetics" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This Amendment to the European Standard EN ISO 21150:2015 shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2023, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2023.

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Endorsement notice to Amendment 1

The text of ISO 21150:2015/Amd 1:2022 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 21150:2015/A1:2022 without any modification.

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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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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 21150:2006), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

Microbiological examinations of cosmetic products are carried out according to an appropriate microbiological risk analysis in order to ensure their quality and safety for consumers.

Microbiological risk analysis depends on several parameters such as the following:

- potential alteration of cosmetic products;
- pathogenicity of microorganisms;
- site of application of the cosmetic product (hair, skin, eyes, mucous membranes);
- type of users (adults, children under 3 years).

For cosmetics and other topical products, the detection of skin pathogens such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Candida albicans* may be relevant because they can cause skin or eye infections. The detection of other kinds of microorganism might be of interest since these microorganisms (including indicators of faecal contamination e.g. *Escherichia coli*) suggest hygienic failure during the manufacturing process.

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Cosmetics — Microbiology — Detection of *Escherichia coli*

1 Scope

This International Standard gives general guidelines for the detection and identification of the specified microorganism *Escherichia coli* in cosmetic products. Microorganisms considered as specified in this International Standard might differ from country to country according to national practices or regulations.

In order to ensure product quality and safety for consumers, it is advisable to perform an appropriate microbiological risk analysis, so as to determine the types of cosmetic products to which this International Standard is applicable. Products considered to present a low microbiological (see ISO 29621) risk include those with low water activity, hydro-alcoholic products, extreme pH values, etc.

The method described in this International Standard is based on the detection of *Escherichia coli* in a non-selective liquid medium (enrichment broth), followed by isolation on a selective agar medium. Other methods may be appropriate, depending on the level of detection required.

NOTE For the detection of *Escherichia coli*, subcultures can be performed on non-selective culture media followed by suitable identification steps (e.g. using identification kits).

Because of the large variety of cosmetic products within this field of application, this method might not be suited to some products in every detail (e.g. certain water-immiscible products). Other International Standards (ISO 18415) may be appropriate. Other methods (e.g. automated) can be substituted for the test presented here provided that their equivalence has been demonstrated or the method has been otherwise shown to be suitable.

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.

ISO 21148:2005, *Cosmetics — Microbiology — General instructions for microbiological examination*

EN 12353, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics — Preservation of test organisms used for the determination of bactericidal (including Legionella), mycobactericidal, sporicidal, fungicidal and virucidal (including bacteriophages) activity*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

product

portion of an identified cosmetic product received in the laboratory for testing

3.2

sample

portion of the product (at least 1 g or 1 ml) that is used in the test to prepare the initial suspension

3.3

initial suspension

suspension (or solution) of the sample in a defined volume of an appropriate enrichment broth