



BSI Standards Publication

Cosmetics — Microbiology — Detection of specified and non-specified microorganisms

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 18415:2017+A1:2022. It is identical to ISO 18415:2017, incorporating amendment 1:2022. It supersedes BS EN ISO 18415:2011, which is withdrawn.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.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

This publication is provided as is, and is to be used at the recipient's own risk.

The recipient is advised to consider seeking professional guidance with respect to its use of this publication.

This publication is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© The British Standards Institution 2022
Published by BSI Standards Limited 2022

ISBN 978 0 539 19506 4

ICS 07.100.40; 07.100.99; 71.100.70

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 31 July 2017.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
31 October 2022	Implementation of ISO amendment 1:2022 with CEN endorsement A1:2022

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

September 2022

ICS 07.100.40

Supersedes EN ISO 18415:2011

English Version

Cosmetics - Microbiology - Detection of specified and non-specified microorganisms (ISO 18415:2017)

Cosmétiques - Microbiologie - Détection des micro-organismes spécifiés et non spécifiés (ISO 18415:2017)

Kosmetische Mittel - Mikrobiologie - Nachweis von spezifizierten und nichtspezifizierten Mikroorganismen (ISO 18415:2017)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 26 April 2017.

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, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

European foreword

This document (EN ISO 18415:2017) 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 December 2017 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2017.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO 18415:2011.

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, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 18415:2017 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 18415:2017 without any modification.

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

European foreword to amendment 1

This document (EN ISO 18415:2017/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 18415:2017 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.

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

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice to amendment 1

The text of ISO 18415:2017/Amd 1:2022 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 18415:2017/A1:2022 without any modification.

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	3
5 Diluents and culture media	3
5.1 General.....	3
5.2 Diluent for the microbial suspension (tryptone sodium chloride solution).....	3
5.2.1 General.....	3
5.2.2 Composition.....	4
5.2.3 Preparation.....	4
5.3 Culture media.....	4
5.3.1 General.....	4
5.3.2 Enrichment broth.....	4
5.3.3 Non-selective agar medium.....	5
6 Apparatus and glassware	5
7 Strains of microorganism	6
8 Handling of cosmetic products and laboratory samples	6
9 Procedure	6
9.1 General recommendations.....	6
9.2 Preparation of the initial suspension in the enrichment broth.....	6
9.2.1 General.....	6
9.2.2 Water-miscible products.....	7
9.2.3 Water-immiscible products.....	7
9.2.4 Filterable products.....	7
9.3 Incubation of the initial suspension.....	7
9.4 Isolation of specified and non-specified microorganisms.....	7
9.5 Procedure for identification of the specified microorganism: <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	7
9.5.1 Gram staining.....	7
9.5.2 Oxidase test.....	7
9.5.3 Identification test.....	8
9.6 Procedure for identification of the specified microorganism: <i>Escherichia coli</i>	8
9.6.1 Gram staining.....	8
9.6.2 Oxidase test.....	8
9.6.3 Identification test.....	8
9.7 Procedure for identification of the specified microorganism: <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	8
9.7.1 Gram staining.....	8
9.7.2 Catalase test.....	8
9.7.3 Identification test.....	8
9.8 Procedure for the identification of the specified microorganism: <i>Candida albicans</i>	9
9.8.1 Gram staining.....	9
9.8.2 Identification test.....	9
9.9 Procedure for the identification of non-specified microorganisms.....	9
9.9.1 Gram staining.....	9
9.9.2 Oxidase test.....	9
9.9.3 Catalase test.....	9
9.9.4 Identification test.....	9
10 Expression of the results	10
10.1 Detection of specified microorganisms.....	10

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

10.2	Detection of non-specified microorganisms.....	10
10.3	Absence of microorganisms.....	10
11	Neutralization of the antimicrobial properties of the product.....	10
11.1	General.....	10
11.2	Preparation of inoculum.....	10
11.3	Suitability of detection method by enrichment.....	10
11.3.1	Principle.....	10
11.3.2	Procedure.....	11
11.3.3	Interpretation of suitability test results.....	11
12	Test report.....	11
Annex A	(informative) General scheme for identification of microorganisms.....	13
Annex B	(informative) Other media.....	14
Annex C	(informative) Neutralizers of antimicrobial activity of preservatives and rinsing liquids.....	17
Bibliography	19

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

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).

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 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18415:2007), of which it constitutes a minor revision with the following changes:

- in the Scope, “see ISO 29621” has been added and the reference has been added to the Bibliography;
- in the Scope, “used” has been changed to “substituted” and “validated” has been changed to “shown to be suitable”;
- in [3.8](#), the term “validated” has been changed to “demonstrated to be suitable”;
- in [Clause 4](#), the term “validated” has been changed to “demonstrated”;
- in [5.1](#), “specifications” has been changed to “instructions”;
- in [5.1](#), the phrase “are validated” has been changed to “have been demonstrated to be suitable”;
- in [5.2.1](#), [5.3.3.1](#), [11.3.1](#), [11.3.2](#), instances of the term “validation” and in the heading title of [11.3.3](#) have been changed to “suitability test”;
- in [11.3](#), the term “validation” in the heading title has been changed to “suitability”;
- in [11.3.3](#), instances of “validated” have been changed to “satisfactory”;
- in [Clause 12 f\)](#), the term “validation” has been changed to “demonstration of the suitability”.

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

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:

- potential alteration of cosmetic products;
- pathogenicity of microorganisms;
- site of application of the cosmetic product (hair, skin, eyes, mucous membranes);
- type of user (adults, children including 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 infection. The detection of other kinds of microorganisms might be of interest since these microorganisms (including indicators of faecal contamination e.g. *Escherichia coli*) suggest hygienic failure during manufacturing process.

This is a preview of "BS EN ISO 18415:2017...". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

Cosmetics — Microbiology — Detection of specified and non-specified microorganisms

1 Scope

This document gives general guidelines for the detection and identification of specified microorganisms in cosmetic products as well as for the detection and identification of other kinds of aerobic mesophilic non-specified microorganisms in cosmetic products.

Microorganisms considered as specified in this document might differ from country to country according to national practices or regulations. Most of them considered as specified microorganisms include one or more of the following species: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans*.

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

The method described in this document is based on the detection of microbial growth in a non-selective liquid medium (enrichment broth) suitable to detect microbial contamination, followed by isolation of microorganisms on non-selective agar media. Other methods can be appropriate depending on the level of detection required.

In this document specific indications are given for identification of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans*. Other microorganisms that grow under the conditions described in this document may be identified by using suitable tests according to a general scheme (see [Annex A](#)). Other standards (e.g. ISO 18416, ISO 21150, ISO 22717, ISO 22718) may be appropriate.

Because of the large variety of cosmetic products within this field of application, this method might not be suited in every detail to some products (e.g. certain water-immiscible products). Other methods (e.g. automated) can be substituted for the tests 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 are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 21148:2017, *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.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>