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## Water quality — Isolation and identification of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and *Giardia* cysts from water

*Qualité de l'eau — Isolement et identification des oocystes de  
Cryptosporidium et des kystes de Giardia*



Reference number  
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## Foreword

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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.

ISO 15553 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Microbiological methods*.

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## Introduction

*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* are protozoan parasites that can cause enteric illness in humans. Both organisms are characterized by an ability to survive in the aquatic environment. *Cryptosporidium* in particular is resistant to chlorine at the concentrations used in the treatment of drinking and swimming pool waters. Consequently the absence of vegetative bacteria as indicators of faecal contamination does not necessarily indicate the absence of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts or *Giardia* cysts. The methods described in this document may be used to determine whether *Cryptosporidium* and/or *Giardia* are present in water supplies. The techniques have been selected on the basis of method development and peer review publication of the data thus obtained. They are further selected to give comparable recoveries of the methods or reagents used in the isolation of the organisms.