

This is a preview of "ISO 17604:2015". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Second edition  
2015-08-15

---

---

## **Microbiology of the food chain — Carcass sampling for microbiological analysis**

*Microbiologie de la chaîne alimentaire — Prélèvement d'échantillons  
sur des carcasses en vue de leur analyse microbiologique*



Reference number  
ISO 17604:2015(E)

© ISO 2015

This is a preview of "ISO 17604:2015". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2015, Published in Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

This is a preview of "ISO 17604:2015". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 General principles</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Sampling plans</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>6 Sampling points on the production line</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>7 Sampling sites on carcasses</b> .....	<b>3</b>
7.1 Large mammals.....	3
7.2 Poultry, small mammals, and other small animals.....	4
7.3 Game.....	4
<b>8 Sampling techniques</b> .....	<b>4</b>
8.1 General.....	4
8.2 Excision methods.....	4
8.2.1 Cork borer method.....	4
8.2.2 Template excision method.....	5
8.2.3 Skin sampling.....	5
8.3 Swabbing methods.....	6
8.3.1 Wet and dry stick swab method.....	6
8.3.2 Sponge, tampon swab, and small cloth method.....	6
8.4 Carcass rinsing method.....	7
8.4.1 Reagent.....	7
8.4.2 Equipment.....	7
8.4.3 Collection of samples.....	7
<b>9 Storage and transport of samples</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>10 Microbiological examination of samples</b> .....	<b>8</b>
10.1 General.....	8
10.2 Initial preparation of samples.....	8
10.2.1 Swabbing methods.....	8
10.2.2 Excised samples.....	8
10.2.3 Carcass rinse samples.....	8
10.3 Enumeration and detection of microorganisms.....	8
<b>Annex A (informative) Sampling sites</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>13</b>

## 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 ([www.iso.org/directives](http://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 ([www.iso.org/patents](http://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 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 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Microbiology*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17604:2003), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 17604:2003/Amd.1:2009.

This is a preview of "ISO 17604:2015". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Introduction

It is generally agreed that the determination of microbial counts and the prevalence and/or numbers of pathogenic microorganisms on carcasses is essential for validation and verification in risk-based slaughter hygiene assurance systems [e.g. those employing the hazard analysis critical control points (HACCP) principles and quality assurance systems].

Moreover, many laboratories are involved in (regional, national, and international) monitoring or surveillance programmes on the prevalence and/or counts of pathogenic microorganisms to gather information for risk assessment. The design of such monitoring and surveillance programmes will benefit from the use of standardized and internationally accepted sampling procedures.

A harmonized sampling method, as described in this International Standard, can also be of interest for trade in meat and meat products.