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Water quality — Criteria for establishing equivalence between microbiological methods

*Qualité de l'eau — Critères pour établir l'équivalence entre les
méthodes microbiologiques*



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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.

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ISO 17994 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Microbiological methods*.

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Introduction

This International Standard presents the criteria and procedures for assessing the average quantitative equivalence of the results obtained by two microbiological analytical methods one of which may but need not be a standard or reference method.

The methods considered are based on counts of colonies or of positive and negative liquid enrichment tubes (MPN and presence/absence methods).

NOTE It is possible that a method that is not quantitatively equivalent with a reference method would be accepted, especially if it appears "better" than the reference either quantitatively or otherwise.