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Second edition  
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## **Microbiology of the food chain — Horizontal methods for surface sampling**

*Microbiologie de la chaîne alimentaire — Méthodes horizontales pour  
les prélèvements de surface*



Reference number  
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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Microbiology*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18593:2004), which has been technically revised. The main changes are as follows:

- recommendations on sampling procedure have been added, including information on sampling location, area and sampling time;
- examples of neutralizers have been added as [Annex A](#).

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## **Introduction**

It can be important to determine the presence of, or the number of microbes on, the surfaces of utensils, work surfaces and other equipment in the food chain environment in order to estimate the level of contamination in the food chain environment.

This document describes horizontal methods for surface sampling.