Second edition
2023-05

Nanotechnologies — Characteristics of working suspensions of nano-objects for in vitro assays to evaluate inherent nano-object toxicity

Nanotechnologies — Caractéristiques des suspensions de nano-objets utilisées pour les tests in vitro évaluant la toxicité inhérente aux nano-objets

Reference number
ISO 19337:2023(E)

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

Contents

Page

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 document 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).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies.*

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/TS 19337:2016) which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— “the flow of measurements” has been improved as shown in Figure A.1;

— the status of Annex A has been changed from informative to normative;

— “5.2 Endotoxin” has been replaced by “5.5 Contamination”.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Before nano-objects enter onto the market, their possible impact on human health and the environment should be carefully evaluated.

In vitro toxicity assays using cultured cells are frequently used as a tool in screening materials for possible hazardous properties. The testing provides essential information for understanding the mechanisms of biological effects induced by the materials. However, nano-objects require specific considerations with respect to the in vitro toxicity assays, because of their unique behaviour in cell culture medium. For example, immediately after the introduction of nano-object samples into the culture medium, the nano-objects can undergo changes in

a) ionic dissolution,

b) corona formation, or

c) aggregation/agglomeration

leading to alteration in particles size and sedimentation. Therefore, it is critical to consider the above-mentioned phenomena in clarifying if the observed effects are related to the tested nano-object itself or from uncontrolled sources and to avoid false interpretation of assay results. For example, the corona formation, metal ion release from the nano-objects and impurities (residual from the nano-object synthesis process) can interfere with some in vitro assays[1], producing inaccurate results. Additionally, the formation of agglomerates and aggregates can alter the toxicity of a suspension. It is important to carefully assess and describe the characteristics of the suspension of nano-objects being tested.

Therefore, the rigorous characterization of the working suspension prior and during in vitro toxicity assays on these characteristics is essential to exclude the in vitro experimental artefacts. In this document, the essential characteristics related to these three phenomena and applicable measurement methods were summarized. On the other hands, this document does not include a strategy to select the appropriate techniques from the applicable measurement methods because the working suspensions that contain nano-object samples for in vitro toxicity assays has the different materials components, concentration and sizes; thus, the appropriate selection is depending on the investigators. While the related informative annexes and the list of references in the Bibliography are included in this document to assist with appropriate method selection by investigators to make allowance for the characterization method selection, optional methods are also given in this document. In Clause 6, the details of the characterization methods/procedures are described; therefore, the appropriateness of the characterization can be judged.

The intention of this document is for reliable test results on nano-object toxicity to be shared and communicated among stakeholders of nano-objects, such as regulators, general public, manufacturers and end users.