First edition
2011-12-01

In vitro diagnostic medical devices — Evaluation of stability of *in vitro* diagnostic reagents

Dispositifs médicaux de diagnostic in vitro — Évaluation de la stabilité des réactifs de diagnostic in vitro

Reference number
ISO 23640:2011(E)

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Published in Switzerland

Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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ISO 23640 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 212, *Clinical laboratory testing and* in vitro *diagnostic test systems*.

Introduction

One important aspect of the development and manufacture of *in vitro* diagnostic (IVD) medical device reagents is initially designing the stability of a product, then determining and verifying the expiry date of the product that is placed on the market. To determine shelf life, transport stability, and in-use stability, the manufacturer performs an evaluation. In order to provide this important information to the customer, the manufacturer identifies critical factors that might influence stability of the IVD reagent and carefully evaluates these characteristics. Stability of the IVD reagent affects the performance of the device and therefore has an impact on patient results.

It is the manufacturer's responsibility to determine and monitor stability of IVD reagents to ensure that performance characteristics of the product are maintained. This is best accomplished by developing a stability evaluation protocol, and producing valid data and analysis to establish appropriate shelf life, transport limitations and in-use stability information, which are then provided to the customers.

The basis for this ISO standard is EN 13640, *Stability testing of* in vitro *diagnostic reagents*[2].