

Second edition
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**Microbiology of the food chain —
Horizontal method for the
enumeration of coagulase-positive
staphylococci (*Staphylococcus aureus*
and other species) —**

**Part 1:
Method using Baird-Parker agar
medium**

*Microbiologie de la chaîne alimentaire — Méthode horizontale
pour le dénombrement des staphylocoques à coagulase positive
(*Staphylococcus aureus* et autres espèces) —*

Partie 1: Méthode utilisant le milieu gélosé de Baird-Parker



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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).

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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 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Microbiology* in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 463, *Microbiology of the food chain*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 6888-1:1999), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the amendments ISO 6888-1:1999/Amd 1:2003 and ISO 6888-1:1999/Amd 2:2018. The main changes compared with the previous edition are as follows:

- the title has been changed to relate to the “Food chain”;
- the status of this document and ISO 6888-2 has been clarified;
- the document has been aligned with ISO 7218:2007, i.e. pour molten agar medium at 44 °C to 47 °C;
- all occurrences, when appropriate, have been changed from “35 °C or 37 °C” to “34 °C to 38 °C”;
- all occurrences of incubation time, when appropriate, have been changed from “18 h to 24 h” to “24 h ± 2 h”;
- requirements have been added to use ISO 11133;
- all available standards related to sampling techniques have been updated;
- a description of typical and atypical colonies on Baird-Parker agar (BPA) medium has been updated;
- the rabbit plasma fibrinogen agar (RPFA) medium has been added as an alternative to the coagulase test for confirmation;
- the flow diagram procedure in [Annex A](#) has been updated;
- culture media and reagents with performance testing in [Annex B](#) have been added;

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- results of the interlaboratory study (from ISO 6888-1:1999/Amd 1:2003, Precision data) has been updated;
- the Bibliography has been updated.

A list of all parts in the ISO 6888 series can be found on the ISO website.

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

This document, ISO 6888-2 and ISO 6888-3 describe three horizontal methods for the detection and enumeration of coagulase-positive staphylococci among which enterotoxinogenic strains are encountered. It is mainly concerned with *Staphylococcus aureus*, but also with *S. intermedius* and certain strains of *S. hyicus*.

For the purposes of this document, the confirmation of typical and atypical colonies is based on a positive coagulase reaction, but it is recognized that some strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* give weakly positive coagulase reactions. These latter strains can be confused with other bacteria but they can be distinguished by the use of additional tests not included in this document, such as tests for sensitivity to lysostaphin, and production of haemolysin, thermostable nuclease and acid from mannitol (see ISO 7218 and Reference [15]).

The main technical changes listed in the Foreword, introduced in this document compared with the previous edition are considered as minor (see ISO 17468). They have a minor impact on the performance characteristics of this method.

Results of the interlaboratory study and samples tested are described in [Annex C](#).