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Third edition
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Water quality — Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* and coliform bacteria —

Part 1: Membrane filtration method for waters with low bacterial background flora

*Qualité de l'eau — Dénombrement des Escherichia coli et des
bactéries coliformes —*

*Partie 1: Méthode par filtration sur membrane pour les eaux à faible
teneur en bactéries*



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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	2
5 Apparatus and glassware	2
6 Culture media and reagents	2
7 Sampling	3
8 Procedure	3
8.1 Preparation of the sample.....	3
8.2 Filtration.....	3
8.3 Incubation and differentiation.....	3
9 Expression of results	4
10 Test report	4
11 Quality assurance	4
11.1 General.....	4
11.2 Performance testing of Chromogenic Coliform Agar (CCA).....	4
11.3 Performance testing of oxidase test.....	5
Annex A (informative) Further microbiological information on coliform bacteria	6
Annex B (normative) Composition and preparation of culture media and reagents	7
Annex C (informative) Performance characteristics	9
Bibliography	10

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 on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Microbiological methods*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 9308-1:2000), which has been technically revised.

It also incorporates the Corrigendum ISO 9308-1:2000/Cor.1:2007.

ISO 9308 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Enumeration of Escherichia coli and coliform bacteria*:

- *Part 1: Membrane filtration method for waters with low bacterial background flora*
- *Part 2: Most probable number method*
- *Part 3: Miniaturized method (Most Probable Number) for the detection and enumeration of E. coli in surface and waste water*

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Introduction

The presence and extent of faecal pollution is an important factor in assessing the quality of water and the risk to human health from infection. Examination of water samples for the presence of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), which normally inhabits the bowel of man and other warm-blooded animals, provides an indication of such pollution. Examination for coliform bacteria can be more difficult to interpret because some coliform bacteria live in soil and surface fresh water and are not always intestinal. Therefore, the presence of coliform bacteria, although not a proof of faecal contamination, may indicate failure in treatment, storage, or distribution.