
Irish Standard
I.S. EN ISO 13843:2017

# Water quality - Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods (ISO 13843:2017)

**I.S. EN ISO 13843:2017**

*Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:*

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## National Foreword

I.S. EN ISO 13843:2017 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN ISO 13843:2017, Water quality - Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods (ISO 13843:2017)

This document does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

# EN ISO 13843

July 2017

ICS 07.100.20

Supersedes ENV ISO 13843:2001

English Version

# Water quality - Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods (ISO 13843:2017)

Qualité de l'eau - Exigences pour l'établissement des caractéristiqes de performance des méthodes microbiologiques quantitatives (ISO 13843:2017)

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Anforderungen zur Bestimmung von Leistungsmerkmalen von quantitativen mikrobiologischen Verfahren (ISO 13843:2017)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 5 June 2017.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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# European foreword

This document (EN ISO 13843:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147 "Water quality" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 230 “Water analysis” the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2018 and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2018.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes ENV ISO 13843:2001.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

**Endorsement notice**

The text of ISO 13843:2017 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 13843:2017 without any modification.

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I.S. EN ISO 13843:2017

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

**ISO 13843**

First edition
2017-06

# Water quality — Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods

*Qualité de l'eau — Exigences pour l'établissement des caractéristiqes de performance des méthodes microbiologiques quantitatives*

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).

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

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Microbiological methods*.

This first edition of ISO 13843 cancels and replaces ISO/TR 13843:2000, which has been technically revised.

# Introduction

Methods are considered microbiological when the quantitative estimate is based on counting of microbial particles either directly with the aid of a microscope or indirectly on the basis of growth (multiplication) into colonies, turbidity, a colour change or fluorescence. The principles and procedures within the scope of this document are commonly known as microscopic count, most probable number (MPN) and colony count. Most of the procedures for the determination of performance characteristics described in this document are applicable to all three types of method. However, where the procedures are not applicable, alternative suggestions are made within the body of the document or in Annexes D and E (for repeatability, reproducibility and uncertainty of counting).

Plaque counts of bacteriophages are in most respects similar to bacterial colony counts.

Some of the ”newer” microbiological methods such as those utilizing fluorescent *in situ* hybridization (FISH) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can also be covered by this document. However, they may require special consideration, depending upon how they are used. The issues of importance in these situations include the mechanism of determining the numbers of microbes present (e.g. standard curve for qPCR or microscopic count for FISH) and the viability of the organisms detected. If such techniques are used for confirmation as part of a method then all sections of this document are relevant.

While not essential, during the characterization of microbiological methods it may be beneficial to generate data using stressed organisms. Various methods can be used to stress organisms, but the two that are most useful for water are disinfectant stress (usually chlorine injury) and nutrient depletion caused by organisms being in a low nutrient environment (i.e. drinking water and other oligotrophic waters) for a period prior to testing. The effect on some of the performance characteristics of “stressing” organisms is almost totally dependent on the type and degree of stress applied and it is inappropriate to include such detail in this document. However, there are descriptions in the literature that laboratories can follow in case they should wish to determine performance characteristics of a method with stressed cells.

# Water quality — Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods

## 1 Scope

This document deals with characterization of microbiological methods. In terms of this document, characterization means the study of parameters that can be measured to describe how the method is likely to perform in a given set of conditions, which can be described as performance characteristics. The document describes procedures for the determination of performance characteristics which can be used for subsequent validation or verification of methods.

The emphasis is on selective quantitative methods and this document applies to all types of water. For methods that are not based upon direct microscopic count, colony count or most probable number, the applicability of the procedures described in this document should be considered carefully.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 17994:2014, *Water quality — Requirements for the comparison of the relative recovery of microorganisms by two quantitative methods*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org./obp

**3.1**
**accuracy**
measurement accuracy
closeness of agreement between a measured quantity value and an assigned quantity value of a measurand

Note 1 to entry: The concept ‘measurement accuracy’ is not a quantity and is not given a numerical quantity value. A measurement is said to be more accurate when it offers a smaller measurement error.

Note 2 to entry: ‘Measurement accuracy’ is sometimes understood as closeness of agreement between measured quantity values that are being attributed to the measurand.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.13[16], modified — “...a true quantity value” replaced by “... an assigned quantity value; Notes 1 and 2 to entry added]