



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN ISO 21976:2020

# Packaging - Tamper verification features for medicinal product packaging (ISO 21976:2018)

**I.S. EN ISO 21976:2020**

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

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NSAI  
1 Swift Square,  
Northwood, Santry  
Dublin 9

T +353 1 807 3800  
F +353 1 807 3838  
E standards@nsai.ie  
W NSAI.ie

Sales:  
T +353 1 857 6730  
F +353 1 857 6729  
W standards.ie

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## National Foreword

I.S. EN ISO 21976:2020 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document EN ISO 21976:2020, Packaging - Tamper verification features for medicinal product packaging (ISO 21976:2018)

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN ISO 21976**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

October 2020

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Supersedes EN 16679:2014

English Version

## Packaging - Tamper verification features for medicinal product packaging (ISO 21976:2018)

Emballage - Témoins d'effraction pour emballages de médicaments (ISO 21976:2018)

Verpackung - Merkmale zur Überprüfung von Manipulationen an Arzneimittelverpackungen (ISO 21976:2018)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 28 September 2020.

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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

**EN ISO 21976:2020 (E)**

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## **European foreword**

The text of ISO 21976:2018 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 122 "Packaging" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 21976:2020 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 261 "Packaging" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by April 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by April 2021.

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 EN 16679:2014.

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, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

## **Endorsement notice**

The text of ISO 21976:2018 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 21976:2020 without any modification.

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**Packaging — Tamper verification  
features for medicinal product  
packaging**

*Emballage — Témoins d'effraction pour emballages de médicaments*



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ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

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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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 122, *Packaging*.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## ISO 21976:2018(E)

### Introduction

Requirements for tamper verification features on medicinal product packaging are emerging and expanding globally to reduce risk and improve patient safety.

This document is to support the harmonization and implementation of tamper verification features to the packaging of medicinal products worldwide.

The knowledge and experience gained in EN 16679:2014 has been used for developing this document. The background for the creation of a European Standard for tamper verification features for medicinal product packaging (EN 16679) was the European Directive 2001/83/EC<sup>[6]</sup>, as amended by Directive 2011/62/EU<sup>[7]</sup>, the latter commonly referred to as the “Falsified Medicines Directive” (FMD).

The packaging of medicinal products placed on the market and incorporating tamper verification features in accordance with this document meets, as an example but not limited to, the requirements of Directive 2001/83/EC<sup>[6]</sup> as amended by Directive 2011/62/EU<sup>[7]</sup>. Article 54(o) of the Directive stipulates, that on the outer packaging of certain medicinal products or, where there is no outer packaging, on the immediate packaging must appear, among others, “a device allowing verification of whether the outer packaging has been tampered with”.

# Packaging — Tamper verification features for medicinal product packaging

## 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and provides guidance for the application, use and check of tamper verification features to the packaging of medicinal products.

The principles in this document can be applied in other sectors, as appropriate.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 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:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **falsified medicinal product**

*medicinal products* (3.6) that deliberately/fraudulently misrepresent their identity, composition or source

[SOURCE: WHO, Definitions of Substandard and Falsified (SF) Medical Products, 2017<sup>[17]</sup>]

### 3.2

#### **finished product**

authorized *medicinal product* (3.6) which has undergone all stages of production including packaging in its final container as it is dispensed, sold or otherwise supplied

### 3.3

#### **immediate packaging**

#### **primary packaging**

container or other form of packaging directly in contact with the *medicinal product* (3.6)

### 3.4

#### **manufacturing authorization holder**

natural or legal person or entity that is authorized for total or partial manufacture

Note 1 to entry: This includes replacement of safety and *tamper verification features* (3.9) (in accordance with Directive 2001/83/EC<sup>[6]</sup>, Article 47a(1)(b) as amended by Directive 2011/62/EU<sup>[2]</sup>).

### 3.5

#### **marketing authorization holder**

natural or legal person or entity responsible for placing the *medicinal product* (3.6) on the market

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