



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN ISO 10993-15:2009

**Biological evaluation of medical devices  
- Part 15: Identification and  
quantification of degradation products  
from metals and alloys (ISO 10993  
-15:2000)**

## I.S. EN ISO 10993-15:2009

*Incorporating amendments/corrigenda issued since publication:*

<i>This document replaces:</i> I.S. EN ISO 10993-15:2000	<i>This document is based on:</i> EN ISO 10993-15:2009 EN ISO 10993-15:2000	<i>Published:</i> 10 June, 2009 27 April, 2001	
This document was published under the authority of the NSAI and comes into effect on: 19 August, 2009		ICS number: 11.100.20	
<b>NSAI</b> 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry Dublin 9	T +353 1 807 3800 F +353 1 807 3838 E standards@nsai.ie W <b>NSAI.ie</b>	<b>Sales:</b> T +353 1 857 6730 F +353 1 857 6729 W standards.ie	<b>Price Code:</b> <b>H</b>
Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann			

English Version

**Biological evaluation of medical devices - Part 15: Identification  
and quantification of degradation products from metals and  
alloys (ISO 10993-15:2000)**

Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux - Partie 15:  
Identification et quantification des produits de dégradation  
issus des métaux et alliages (ISO 10993-15:2000)

Biologische Beurteilung von Medizinprodukten - Teil 15:  
Qualitativer und quantitativer Nachweis von  
Abbauprodukten aus Metallen und Legierungen (ISO  
10993-15:2000)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 23 May 2009.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN Management Centre or to any CEN member.

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 Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

**Contents**

Page

**Foreword.....3**

**Annex ZA (informative) Relationship between this European Standard and the Essential Requirements of EU Directive 93/42/EEC on Medical Devices .....4**

## **Foreword**

The text of ISO 10993-15:2000 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194 "Biological evaluation of medical devices" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 10993-15:2009 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 206 "Biological evaluation of medical devices" the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

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 December 2009, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2010.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO 10993-15:2000.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive 93/42/EEC on Medical Devices.

For relationship with the EU Directive, see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

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, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### **Endorsement notice**

The text of ISO 10993-15:2000 has been approved by CEN as a EN ISO 10993-15:2009 without any modification.

## Annex ZA (informative)

### Relationship between this European Standard and the Essential Requirements of EU Directive 93/42/EEC on Medical Devices

This European Standard has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association to provide a means of conforming to Essential Requirements of the New Approach Directive 93/42/EEC on medical devices.

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Communities under that Directive and has been implemented as a national standard in at least one Member State, compliance with the clauses of this standard given in table ZA confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding Essential Requirements of that Directive and associated EFTA regulations.

**Table ZA — Correspondence between this European Standard and Directive 93/42/EEC on medical devices**

Clause(s)/sub-clause(s) of this EN	Essential Requirements (ERs) of Directive 93/42/EEC	Qualifying remarks/Notes
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Annex I: 7.1, 7.2, 7.5	

**WARNING —** Other requirements and other EU Directives may be applicable to the product(s) falling within the scope of this standard.

I.S. EN ISO 10993-15:2009

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO 10993-15

First edition  
2000-12-01

Corrected and reprinted  
2001-04-01

---

---

## **Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys**

*Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux —*

*Partie 15: Identification et quantification des produits de dégradation issus  
des métaux et alliages*



Reference number  
ISO 10993-15:2000(E)

© ISO 2000

**PDF disclaimer**

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

© ISO 2000

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.ch](mailto:copyright@iso.ch)  
Web [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

Printed in Switzerland



## Contents

Page

Foreword.....	iv
Introduction .....	vi
1 Scope .....	1
2 Normative references .....	1
3 Terms and definitions .....	2
4 Degradation test methods .....	2
4.1 General.....	2
4.2 Prerequisites .....	3
5 Reagent and sample preparation .....	3
5.1 Sample documentation .....	3
5.2 Test solution (electrolyte) .....	3
5.3 Preparation of test samples.....	3
6 Electrochemical tests.....	4
6.1 Apparatus .....	4
6.2 Sample preparation .....	4
6.3 Test conditions .....	5
6.4 Potentiodynamic measurements .....	5
6.5 Potentiostatic measurements.....	5
7 Immersion test .....	5
7.1 Apparatus .....	5
7.2 Sample preparation .....	7
7.3 Immersion test procedure.....	7
8 Analysis .....	8
9 Test report .....	8
Annex A (informative) Schematic diagram of the electrochemical measuring circuit.....	9
Annex B (informative) Schematic drawing of an electrolytic cell .....	10
Annex C (informative) Examples of alternative electrolytes for the electrochemical tests.....	11
Bibliography .....	12

## 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this part of ISO 10993 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 10993-15 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194, *Biological evaluation of medical devices*.

ISO 10993 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Biological evaluation of medical devices*:

- *Part 1: Evaluation and testing*
- *Part 2: Animal welfare requirements*
- *Part 3: Tests for genotoxicity, carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity*
- *Part 4: Selection of tests for interactions with blood*
- *Part 5: Tests for in vitro cytotoxicity*
- *Part 6: Tests for local effects after implantation*
- *Part 7: Ethylene oxide sterilization residuals*
- *Part 8: Selection and qualification of reference materials for biological tests*
- *Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products*
- *Part 10: Tests for irritation and delayed-type hypersensitivity*
- *Part 11: Tests for systemic toxicity*
- *Part 12: Sample preparation and reference materials*
- *Part 13: Identification and quantification of degradation products from polymeric medical devices*
- *Part 14: Identification and quantification of degradation products from ceramics*
- *Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys*
- *Part 16: Toxicokinetic study design for degradation products and leachables*

- *Part 17: Establishment of allowable limits for leachable substances using health-based risk assessment*
- *Part 18: Chemical characterization of materials*

Future parts will deal with other relevant aspects of biological testing.

Annexes A, B and C of this part of ISO 10993 are for information only.

## Introduction

One of the potential health hazards resulting from medical devices may be due to the interactions of their electrochemically-induced degradation products with the biological system. Therefore, the evaluation of potential degradation products from metallic materials by methods suitable for testing the electrochemical behavior of these materials is a necessary step in the biological performance testing of materials.

The body environment typically contains cations of sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium and anions of chloride, bicarbonate, phosphate and organic acids generally in concentrations between  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  mol and  $150 \times 10^{-3}$  mol. A range of organic molecules such as proteins, enzymes and lipoproteins is also present, but their concentrations may vary to a great extent. Earlier studies assumed that organic molecules did not exert a significant influence on the degradation of metallic implants, but newer investigations indicate that implant — protein interactions should be taken into account. Depending on a particular product or application, altering the pH of the testing environment may also need to be considered.

In such biological environments, metallic materials may undergo a certain degradation and the different degradation products may interact with the biological system in different ways. Therefore, the identification and quantification of these degradation products is an important step in evaluating the biological performance of medical devices.

# Biological evaluation of medical devices —

## Part 15:

# Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys

## 1 Scope

This part of ISO 10993 provides guidance on general requirements for the design of tests for identifying and quantifying degradation products from finished metallic medical devices or corresponding material samples finished as ready for clinical use. It is applicable only to those degradation products generated by chemical alteration of the finished metallic device in an *in vitro* accelerated degradation test. Because of the accelerated nature of these tests, the test results may not reflect the implant or material behavior in the body. The described chemical methodologies are a means to generate degradation products for further assessments.

This part of ISO 10993 is not applicable to degradation products induced by applied mechanical stress.

**NOTE** Mechanically induced degradation, such as wear, may be covered in the appropriate product-specific standard. Where product-group standards provide applicable product-specific methodologies for the identification and quantification of degradation products, those standards should be considered.

Because of the wide range of metallic materials used in medical devices, no specific analytical techniques are identified for quantifying the degradation products. The identification of trace elements ( $< 10^{-6}$ ) contained in the specific metal or alloy is not addressed in this part of ISO 10993, nor are specific requirements for acceptable levels of degradation products provided in this part of ISO 10993.

This part of ISO 10993 does not address the biological activity of the degradation products; see instead the applicable clauses of ISO 10993-1 and ISO 10993-17.

## 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 3585, *Borosilicate glass 3.3 — Properties.*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods.*

ISO 8044, *Corrosion of metals and alloys — Basic terms and definitions.*

ISO 10993-1, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 1: Evaluation and testing.*

ISO 10993-9, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products.*

This is a free preview. Purchase the entire publication at the link below:

[Product Page](#)

- 
- [Looking for additional Standards? Visit Intertek Inform Infostore](#)
  - [Learn about LexConnect, All Jurisdictions, Standards referenced in Australian legislation](#)
-