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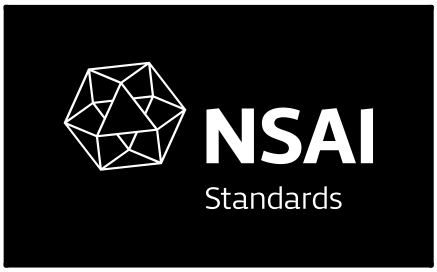

Irish Standard
I.S. EN 16602-70-53:2015

Space product assurance - Materials and hardware compatibility tests for sterilization processes

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 16602-70-53

January 2015

ICS 49.140

English version

Space product assurance - Materials and hardware compatibility tests for sterilization processes

Assurance produit des projets spatiaux - Essais de compatibilité des matériaux et matériels pour les processus de stérilisation

Raumfahrtproduktsicherung - Kompatibilitätstests für Material und Hardware in Sterilisationsprozessen

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 18 October 2014.

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Foreword

This document (EN 16602-70-53:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/CLC/TC 5 “Space”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This standard (EN 16602-70-53:2015) originates from ECSS-Q-ST-70-53C.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by July 2015, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by July 2015.

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 has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

This document has been developed to cover specifically space systems and has therefore precedence over any EN covering the same scope but with a wider domain of applicability (e.g. : aerospace).

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Introduction

A properly formulated and executed test program for all hardware elements that have to undergo sterilization is essential to guarantee their nominal performance and to prevent any immediate or long-term detrimental effects.

The detrimental effects to be anticipated during sterilization depend on the applied process and include

- Direct effects: Materials degradation by heat, particulate and electromagnetic radiation, chemical interaction, cracking/fracture of materials or assemblies due to dimensional changes by expansion, out or off-gassing, etc.
- Indirect effects: Change in crystallinity of materials, accelerated ageing (e.g. burn-in of components), heating due to radiation, generation of secondary radiation, re-contamination after out or off-gassing, etc.
- Long-term effects: Generation of long-lived active centres (e.g. radicals) and subsequent post-degradation reactions, etc.

The objective of this Standard is to ensure a successful mission by the definition of a test protocol and acceptance criteria for the determination of hardware compatibility with sterilization processes.

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1 Scope

This Standard describes a test protocol to determine the compatibility of materials, components, parts, and assemblies with sterilization processes. It is dedicated to test on non-flight hardware only. Any additional requirements that can be imposed by the potential use of test samples as flight hardware are not covered in this document (e.g. handling requirements). This Standard covers the following:

- Identification of critical test parameters to establish functional integrity of the hardware.
- Typical test protocols.
- Acceptance criteria.

Statements about compatibility of materials and components with sterilization processes in this document are made in general terms only. Other factors for determination of whether a material or component is suitable for a particular mission system application include:

- The potential number of sterilization cycles to which the material/component will be subjected in their live cycle.
- The additional stresses on materials/components introduced when they have become part of a larger unit/equipment/system undergoing sterilization.
- Compatibility of sterilization processes at e.g. materials level. This compatibility does not automatically guarantee that it will perform to its requirements in an assembly. The final application and possible interactions at higher assembly level are important considerations for qualification.
- Qualification of hardware achieved by specific sterilization parameters. They cannot be necessarily extrapolated to other sterilization parameters, not even within the same sterilization process.
- The drift in performance that can be induced by sterilization processes . This drift can cause equipments to fail to meet their specified performance requirements, even though each individual element/component remains within spec. An example of this is where 'Select-on-test' components are used to operate a component over a critically narrow range its full performance.

To assess ultimately the suitability/compatibility of a material or component for an application requires a full consideration of the impact of sterilization

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