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Cosmetics - Microbiology - Quality control of culture media and diluents used in cosmetics standards (ISO 4973:2023)

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy.  
This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

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## Cosmetics - Microbiology - Quality control of culture media and diluents used in cosmetics standards (ISO 4973:2023)

Cosmétiques - Microbiologie - Contrôle qualité des milieux de culture et des diluants utilisés dans les normes relatives aux cosmétiques (ISO 4973:2023)

Kosmetische Mittel - Mikrobiologie - Qualitätskontrolle von Nährmedien und Verdünnungsmitteln, die in den Normen für kosmetischen Mittel verwendet werden (ISO 4973:2023)

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

**EN ISO 4973:2023 (E)**

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## **European foreword**

This document (EN ISO 4973:2023) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217 "Cosmetics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 392 "Cosmetics" 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by April 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by April 2024.

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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

# ISO 4973

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## **Cosmetics — Microbiology — Quality control of culture media and diluents used in cosmetics standards**

*Cosmétiques — Microbiologie — Contrôle qualité des milieux  
de culture et des diluants utilisés dans les normes relatives aux  
cosmétiques*



Reference number  
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CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
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## Foreword

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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 document 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)).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 392, *Cosmetics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

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## ISO 4973:2023(E)

### Introduction

The quality of culture media used in the current standards for cosmetic microbiology is an essential part of microbiological analysis reliability and needs to be verified.

Checking different parameters of culture media such as growth promotion, absence of microbial growth for non-inoculated culture media, physical characteristics, can help to assess their quality.

This document is intended to provide methods to assess the quality of the media used in cosmetics microbiology standards and define the minimum acceptance criteria required to ensure their performance.

This applies to:

- a) commercially ready-to-use culture media;
- b) culture media prepared from dehydrated culture media plus additional ingredients, or only ingredients.

# Cosmetics — Microbiology — Quality control of culture media and diluents used in cosmetics standards

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the minimum requirements for quality control of microbiological culture media and diluents in order to demonstrate their ability to detect microorganisms and to ensure reliability of the microbiological test methods described in the ISO cosmetics microbiology standards.

This document describes mainly growth promotion and microbial control tests and is applicable to both commercially ready-to-use culture media and culture media prepared from dehydrated culture media or basic constituents in the user's laboratory.

Other methods can be substituted provided that their equivalence has been demonstrated.

## 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 21148, *Cosmetics — Microbiology — General instructions for microbiological examination*

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