

BS EN ISO 9308-2:2014



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Water quality — Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* and coliform bacteria

Part 2: Most probable number method

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 9308-2:2014. It is identical to ISO 9308-2:2012. It supersedes BS ISO 9308-2:2012, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted by Technical Committee EH/3 Water quality to Subcommittee EH/3/4, Microbiological methods.

A list of organizations represented on this subcommittee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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

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Date	Text affected
30 June 2014	This corrigendum renumbers BS ISO 9308-2:2012 as BS EN ISO 9308-2:2014

English Version

Water quality - Enumeration of Escherichia coli and coliform bacteria - Part 2: Most probable number method (ISO 9308-2:2012)

Qualité de l'eau - Dénombrement des Escherichia coli et des bactéries coliformes - Partie 2: Méthode du nombre le plus probable (ISO 9308-2:2012)

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Zählung von Escherichia coli und coliformen Bakterien - Teil 2: Verfahren zur Bestimmung der wahrscheinlichsten Keimzahl (ISO 9308-2:2012)

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Foreword

The text of ISO 9308-2:2012 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147 “Water quality” of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 9308-2:2014 by 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2014, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2014.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 9308-2:2012 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 9308-2:2014 without any modification.

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Introduction

The presence and extent of faecal pollution is an important factor in assessing the quality of a body of water and the risk to human health from infection. Examination of water samples for the presence of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), which normally inhabits the bowel of man and other warm-blooded animals, provides an indication of such pollution. Examination for coliform bacteria can be more difficult to interpret because some coliform bacteria live in soil and surface fresh water and are not always intestinal. Therefore, the presence of coliform bacteria, although not a proof of faecal contamination, may indicate a failure in treatment or ingress of water into the distribution system.

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Water quality — Enumeration of *Escherichia coli* and coliform bacteria —

Part 2: Most probable number method

WARNING – Persons using this part of ISO 9308 should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This International Standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

IMPORTANT – It is absolutely essential that tests conducted in accordance with this part of ISO 9308 be carried out by suitably qualified staff.

1 Scope

This part of ISO 9308 specifies a method for the enumeration of *E. coli* and coliform bacteria in water. The method is based on the growth of target organisms in a liquid medium and calculation of the “Most Probable Number” (MPN) of organisms by reference to MPN tables. This method can be applied to all types of water, including those containing an appreciable amount of suspended matter and high background counts of heterotrophic bacteria. However, it must not be used for the enumeration of coliform bacteria in marine water. When using for the enumeration of *E. coli* in marine waters, a 1→10 dilution in sterile water is typically required, although the method has been shown to work well with some marine waters that have a lower than normal concentration of salts. In the absence of data to support the use of the method without dilution, a 1→10 dilution is used.

This method relies upon the detection of *E. coli* based upon expression of the enzyme β -D-glucuronidase and consequently does not detect many of the enterohaemorrhagic strains of *E. coli*, which do not typically express this enzyme. Additionally, there are a small number of other *E. coli* strains that do not express β -D-glucuronidase.

The choice of tests used in the detection and confirmation of the coliform group of bacteria, including *E. coli*, can be regarded as part of a continuous sequence. The extent of confirmation with a particular sample depends partly on the nature of the water and partly on the reasons for the examination. The test described in this part of ISO 9308 provides a confirmed result with no requirement for further confirmation of positive wells.

NOTE While this method describes the use of an enumeration device that is commercially available, the medium described here can also be used in a standard MPN format.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 8199, *Water quality — General guide to the enumeration of micro-organisms by culture*

ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004, *Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary*