
**Microbiology of food and animal feeding
stuffs — Horizontal method for the
enumeration of microorganisms —
Colony-count technique at 30 °C**

*Microbiologie des aliments — Méthode horizontale pour le
dénombrement des micro-organismes — Technique de comptage des
colonies à 30 °C*



Reference number
ISO 4833:2003(E)

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Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

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ISO 4833 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Microbiology*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4833:1991). The following technical changes have been made:

- subclause 5.2, Plate count agar: an examination of dairy products is included;
- Clause 10, Expression of results: precision data are given, and an example of precision data for dairy products.

Introduction

Because of the large variety of food and feed products, this horizontal method may not be appropriate in every detail for certain products. In this case, different methods which are specific to these products may be used if absolutely necessary for justified technical reasons. Nevertheless, every attempt should be made to apply this horizontal method as far as possible.

When this International Standard is next reviewed, account will be taken of all information then available regarding the extent to which this horizontal method has been followed and the reasons for deviations from them in the case of particular products.

The harmonization of test methods cannot be immediate, and for certain groups of products International Standards and/or national standards may already exist that do not comply with this horizontal method. In cases where International Standards already exist for the product to be tested, they should be followed. It is hoped that when such standards are reviewed, they will be changed to comply with this International Standard so that eventually the only remaining departures from this horizontal method will be those necessary for well-established technical reasons.