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Water quality — Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods

1 Scope

This document deals with characterization of microbiological methods. In terms of this document, characterization means the study of parameters that can be measured to describe how the method is likely to perform in a given set of conditions, which can be described as performance characteristics. The document describes procedures for the determination of performance characteristics which can be used for subsequent validation or verification of methods.

The emphasis is on selective quantitative methods and this document applies to all types of water. For methods that are not based upon direct microscopic count, colony count or most probable number, the applicability of the procedures described in this document should be considered carefully.

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 17994:2014, *Water quality — Requirements for the comparison of the relative recovery of microorganisms by two quantitative methods*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org./obp

3.1
accuracy
measurement accuracy
closeness of agreement between a measured quantity value and an assigned quantity value of a measurand

Note 1 to entry: The concept ‘measurement accuracy’ is not a quantity and is not given a numerical quantity value. A measurement is said to be more accurate when it offers a smaller measurement error.

Note 2 to entry: ‘Measurement accuracy’ is sometimes understood as closeness of agreement between measured quantity values that are being attributed to the measurand.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC Guide 99:2007, 2.13[16], modified — “…a true quantity value” replaced by “… an assigned quantity value; Notes 1 and 2 to entry added]