

Specification for
Toilet soap

Confirmed
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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Chemicals Standards Policy Committee (CIC/-) to Technical Committee CIC/34, upon which the following bodies were represented:

Chemical Industries Association
 Chemical Industries Association (GOSIP)
 Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
 Department of Trade and Industry (Laboratory of the Government Chemist)
 Ministry of Defence
 Royal Society of Chemistry
 Soap and Detergent Industry Association
 Society of Dyers and Colourists

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Foreword

This revision of BS 1914 has been prepared under the direction of the Chemicals Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes the 1984 edition of BS 1914, which is withdrawn and from which it differs principally in that the references to test methods have been changed to take account of the partial revision of BS 1715:1963, and that the requirement for rosin acids content has been deleted. This British Standard is one of a series dealing with various kinds of soap. Other standards in the series are as follows:

BS 1545, *Specification for liquid toilet soap.*

BS 1911, *Specification for hard soap.*

BS 1912, *Specification for soap flakes.*

BS 1913, *Specification for soft soap.*

BS 4405, *Specification for liquid soap.*

Toilet soap is differentiated from hard soap by its higher soap content and its greater variety of colour and perfume.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 and 2, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements and gives corresponding test methods for three types of toilet soap. The standard is not applicable to carbolic soap or speciality soaps such as transparent soap, medicated soap or sea-water soap.

NOTE The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Classification

Three types of toilet soap are classified (see Table 1). Type A is a more strictly specified material, type B is suitable for all general purposes and type S contains a specified proportion of its total fatty matter as free fatty acids and therefore contains no free caustic alkali. Types A and B usually contain very little free fatty acid.

3 Properties

3.1 The contents of the soaps to which this British Standard refers shall be as given in Table 1. Compliance shall be checked by the methods given in Table 1 using analysis samples prepared as described in BS 1715-1.

3.2 In the case of the properties listed in items 3 to 6 of Table 1, the actual results obtained by the specified methods of test shall be recalculated in relation to the specified minimum total fatty matter (see Table 1, item 1) by means of the equation:

$$\text{Recalculated result} = \text{Actual result} \times \frac{\text{Specified minimum total fatty matter content}}{\text{Actual total fatty matter content}}$$

NOTE Recalculation of the results is necessary because the soaps are liable to lose moisture on keeping.

Table 1 — Properties and test methods

Property	Content			Test method
	Type A	Type B	Type S	
1. Total fatty matter content min.	78.0	76.5	79.0	Described in BS 1715-2.1 Described in BS 684-2.34 and BS 684-2.35
2. Lauric oils (e.g. palm kernel oil, coconut oil, Babassu oil) fatty acids content. Expressed as content of acids derived from lauric oils, calculated on total fatty matter, min.	13.0	No requirement	13.0	
3. Ethanol-insoluble matter content max.	1.25	2.5	2.0	Described in BS 1715-2.11
4. Free caustic alkali content (Na ₂ O) max.	0.05	0.05	Not applicable	Described in BS 1715-2.3 and Appendix A of this standard
5. Chloride content (NaCl) max.	0.7	0.8	1.2	Described in BS 1715-2.7
6. Free fatty acid content, expressed as fatty acid of mean relative molecular mass 248	No requirement	No requirement	2.0 to 10.0	Described in BS 1715-2.4

Appendix A Determination of free caustic alkali content

Use method A described in BS 1715-2.3 except that the calculation and formula given in 4.5.1 of BS 1715-2.3:1989 should be replaced by the following.

The free caustic alkali content, expressed as a percentage by mass of Na₂O, is given by the formula:

$$0.031 \times \frac{VT}{m} \times 100$$

where

- m* is the mass of the test portion (in g);
- V* is the volume of the ethanolic hydrochloric acid solution (see 4.2.3 of BS 1715-2.3:1989) used (in mL);
- T* is the amount-of-substance concentration of the ethanolic hydrochloric acid solution (see 4.2.3 of BS 1715-2.3:1989) used (in mol/L).

Publications referred to

BS 684, *Methods of analysis of fats and fatty oils.*

BS 684-2.34, *Preparation of methyl esters of fatty acids.*

BS 684-2.35, *Analysis by gas-liquid chromatography of methyl esters of fatty acids.*

BS 1545, *Specification for liquid toilet soap*¹⁾.

BS 1715, *Analysis of soaps.*

BS 1715-1, *General introduction, sampling, and test for presence of synthetic anionic-active surface active agents.*

BS 1715-2.1, *Method for determination of total alkali content and total fatty matter content.*

BS 1715-2.2, *Method for determination of total free alkali content.*

BS 1715-2.3, *Method for determination of free caustic alkali content.*

BS 1715-2.4, *Method for determination of free fatty acids content.*

BS 1715-2.7, *Method for determination of chloride content.*

BS 1715-2.11, *Method for determination of ethanol-insoluble matter content.*

BS 1911, *Specification for hard soap*¹⁾.

BS 1912, *Specification for soap flakes*¹⁾.

BS 1913, *Specification for soft soap*¹⁾.

BS 4405, *Specification for liquid soap*¹⁾.

¹⁾ Referred to in the foreword only.

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