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Glossary of

Terms relating to disinfectants

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

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Association of Metropolitan Authorities
 Association of Public Analysts
 British Association for Chemical Specialities
 Consumer Standards Advisory Committee of BSI
 Department of Health and Social Security
 Department of Trade and Industry (Laboratory of the Government Chemist)
 Greater London Council
 Institute of Trading Standards Administration
 Public Health Laboratory Service
 Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene
 Royal Society of Chemistry
 Society of Chemical Industry

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Disinfectants Standards Committee, following a request by the British Association for Chemical Specialities, in order to eliminate confusion on the meaning of terms widely used to describe products and processes in the disinfectants industry. It supersedes BS 5283:1976, which is withdrawn.

The terms used in the disinfectants industry which are defined in this glossary are listed in two sections as follows:

- *section 1: Definitive terms;*
- *section 2: Terms in common use.*

In some cases, where two or more terms have the same meaning, one is preferred and is printed in bold type; the other(s) are printed in medium type and, if deprecated, are so marked.

This edition of the standard introduces five new terms (algicide, biocide, germ, micro-organism and virucide) as well as making minor changes to some of the other definitions. In addition five terms (antisepsis, antiseptic, chemical sterilizing agent, disinfectant and disinfection) which were previously included as terms in common use have been reclassified as definitive terms.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 3 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.

Section 1. Definitive terms

No.	Term	Definition
101	algicide	A chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing algae including their spores.
102	antisepsis	The destruction or inhibition of <i>micro-organisms</i> on living tissues having the effect of limiting or preventing the harmful results of infection. It is NOT a synonym for <i>disinfection</i> .
103	antiseptic	A chemical agent used in <i>antisepsis</i> .
104	bactericide	A chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing bacteria but not necessarily bacterial spores (see 115).
105	bacteriostasis	A state of bacterial population in which multiplication is inhibited.
106	bacteriostat	A chemical agent which under defined conditions induces <i>bacteriostasis</i> .
107	biocide	A general term for a chemical agent capable of killing or inactivating <i>micro-organisms</i> . It embraces the more specific terms <i>algicide</i> , <i>bactericide</i> , <i>fungicide</i> , <i>sporicide</i> and <i>virucide</i> (see also <i>germicide</i>). NOTE Pesticides are not considered to be <i>biocides</i> .
108	chemical sterilizing agent	A chemical agent which under defined conditions leads to <i>sterilization</i> .
109	disinfectant	A chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of <i>disinfection</i> .
110	disinfection	The destruction of <i>micro-organisms</i> , but not usually bacterial spores: it does not necessarily kill all <i>micro-organisms</i> , but reduces them to a level acceptable for a defined purpose, for example, a level which is harmful neither to health nor to the quality of perishable goods.
111	fungicide	A chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing fungi including their spores.
112	fungistasis	A state of fungal population the development of which is inhibited.
113	fungistat	A chemical agent which under defined conditions induces <i>fungistasis</i> .
114	micro-organism	A microscopic entity capable of replication. It includes bacteria, viruses and the microscopic forms of algae, fungi and protozoa.
115	sporicide	A chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing bacterial spores.
116	sterile	Free from all living <i>micro-organisms</i> .
117	sterilization	A process which renders an item <i>sterile</i> .
118	sterilizing agent sterilant	An agent or combination of agents which under defined conditions leads to <i>sterilization</i> .
119	virucide	A chemical agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing or inactivating viruses.

Section 2. Terms in common use

No.	Term	Definition
201	germ	A vague term which should be avoided. A <i>micro-organism</i> which can be harmful.
202	germicide	A vague term which should be avoided. An agent which under defined conditions is capable of killing <i>germs</i> .
203	sanitization	A term used mainly in the food and catering industry. A process of both cleaning and disinfecting utensils, equipment and surfaces.
204	sanitizer detergent/disinfectant detergent/sterilizer <i>deprecated</i>	A chemical agent used for <i>sanitization</i> .

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