INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 8870

IDF 83

First edition
2006-05-01

Milk and milk-based products — Detection of thermonuclease produced by coagulase-positive staphylococci

Lait et produits laitiers — Recherche de la thermonucléase en provenance des staphylocoques à coagulase positive

Reference numbers
ISO 8870:2006(E)
IDF 83:2006(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 8870|IDF 83 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Milk and milk products*, and the International Dairy Federation (IDF). It is being published jointly by ISO and IDF.

Foreword

IDF (the International Dairy Federation) is a worldwide federation of the dairy sector with a National Committee in every member country. Every National Committee has the right to be represented on the IDF Standing Committees carrying out the technical work. IDF collaborates with ISO in the development of standard methods of analysis and sampling for milk and milk products.

Draft International Standards adopted by the Action Teams and Standing Committees are circulated to the National Committees for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 50 % of IDF National Committees casting a vote.

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ISO 8870|IDF 83 was prepared by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) and Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Milk and milk products*. It is being published jointly by IDF and ISO.

All work was carried out by the Joint ISO-IDF Action Team on *Harmonization*, of the Standing Committee on *Microbiological methods of analysis*, under the aegis of its project leader, Mr H. Becker (DE).

This edition of ISO 8870|IDF 83 cancels and replaces IDF 83A:1998, which has been editorially revised.

Milk and milk-based products — Detection of thermonuclease produced by coagulase-positive staphylococci

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the detection of heat-stable DNase (thermonuclease) produced by coagulase-positive staphylococci in milk and milk-based products.

The enzyme can be used as an indicator that staphylococcal growth has reached hazardous levels, and can reveal the potential presence of staphylococcal enterotoxins.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 8261|IDF 122, *Milk and milk products — General guidance for the preparation of test samples, initial suspensions and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
thermonuclease
enzyme produced by coagulase-positive staphylococci, which hydrolyses deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) under the conditions specified in this International Standard

4 Principle

Milk, reconstituted milk powder or homogenized milk-based products are, after addition of skim milk powder, adjusted to pH 3,8 and centrifuged. The supernatant is precipitated with trichloroacetic acid. After centrifuging, the precipitate is adjusted to pH 8,5 and Tris buffer is added. The solution is then heated in a boiling water bath for 15 min and tested for thermonuclease activity in toluidine blue O-DNA agar. The colour of the agar turns from blue to pink if thermonuclease cleaves the DNA molecule. This colour reaction is due to the metachromatic properties of toluidine blue O.

5 Culture media and reagents

5.1 Basic materials

For current laboratory practice, see ISO 8261|IDF 122.

Use only reagents of recognized analytical grade, unless otherwise specified, and distilled or demineralized water or water of equivalent purity.

If the prepared media and reagents are not used immediately, store them, unless otherwise stated, in the dark at between 0 °C and +5 °C for no longer than 1 month, under conditions which do not produce any change in their composition.

5.2 Toluidine blue O-DNA agar

5.2.1 Tris buffer

5.2.1.1 Composition

Tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane ($C_4H_{11}NO_3$)	6,06 g
Calcium chloride ($CaCl_2$)	0,11 g
Water	1 000 ml

5.2.1.2 Preparation

Dissolve the tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane and the calcium chloride in 980 ml of water. Adjust the pH to 9,0 and add water to 1 000 ml.

5.2.2 Base medium

5.2.2.1 Composition

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)[a]	0,3 g
Sodium chloride (NaCl)	10,0 g
Agar	10,0 g
Tris buffer (5.2.1)	1 000 ml

[a] The DNA used shall have been proven to be suitable for the detection of thermonuclease.

5.2.2.2 Preparation

Boil the components in a water bath (6.2) until the DNA and the agar are completely dissolved (about 1,5 h).

5.2.3 Toluidine blue O solution

5.2.3.1 Composition

Toluidine blue O ($C_{15}H_{16}N_3SCl$)[a]	0,31 g
Water	10 ml

[a] Toluidine blue O (Colour Index: C.I. Basic Blue 17; C.I. No. 52040).

5.2.3.2 Preparation

Dissolve the toluidine blue O in the water with minimal heating and filter it through gauze (6.12).

5.2.4 Complete medium

5.2.4.1 Composition

Base medium (5.2.2)	1 000 ml
Toluidine blue O solution (5.2.3)	3 ml

5.2.4.2 Preparation

Cool the base medium to approximately 50 °C. Add the filtered toluidine blue O solution and mix by swirling.

The complete medium may be stored for several months in small portions in closed flasks or bottles in the dark at between 0 °C and +5 °C.

5.2.5 Preparation of agar plates

Transfer to Petri dishes (6.8), 13 ml of the complete medium (5.2.4) or the stored medium preheated to approximately 50 °C. Allow it to solidify.

Prepared plates may be stored for about 2 months (bottom uppermost and protected from drying) in the dark at between 0 °C and +5 °C.

5.3 Hydrochloric acid, c(HCl) = 2 mol/l.

5.4 Sodium hydroxide, c(NaOH) = 2 mol/l.

5.5 Trichloroacetic acid, $c(CCl_3COOH)$ = 3 mol/l.

Dissolve 49,02 g of trichloroacetic acid in 100 ml of water.

5.6 Skim milk powder

Skim milk powder shall be free from thermonuclease. Test every new lot using the method described in this International Standard.

5.7 Brain heart infusion broth

5.7.1 Composition

Enzymatic digest of animal tissues	10,0 g
Dehydrated calf brain infusion	12,5 g
Dehydrated beef heart infusion	5,0 g
Glucose	2,0 g
Sodium chloride	5,0 g
Disodium hydrogen phosphate, anhydrous (Na_2HPO_4)	2,5 g
Water	1 000 ml

5.7.2 Preparation

Dissolve the components or the dehydrated complete medium in the water by heating, if necessary. Adjust the pH so that after sterilization it is 7,4 ± 0,2 at 25 °C. Transfer the culture medium in quantities of approximately 5 ml in tubes of appropriate capacity (6.11).

Sterilize the medium at 121 °C for 15 min.

5.8 Test microorganism (positive control)

Any thermonuclease positive strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* may be used as test microorganism.

6 Apparatus

Use the apparatus required for the preparation of test samples as specified in ISO 8261|IDF 122, the usual microbiological laboratory apparatus and, in particular, the following.

Disposable apparatus is an acceptable alternative to reusable glassware if it has suitable specifications. Re-usable glassware should be capable of undergoing repeated sterilization and should be chemically inert.

6.1 Incubator, capable of being maintained at 37 °C ± 1 °C.

6.2 Water baths, capable of operating at 50 °C and of boiling (for heating and cooling of the medium and the solutions to suitable temperatures).

6.3 Centrifuge, capable of delivering a centrifugal force of more than 27 000 g.

6.4 Centrifuge, capable of delivering a centrifugal force of more than 2 800 g.

6.5 Hollow cylinder, made from metal, of diameter about 2 mm, for cutting wells into the toluidine blue O-DNA agar.

6.6 Micropipettes, of nominal capacity 0,01 ml.

6.7 Loops, of platinum-iridium or nickel-chromium, of diameter approximately 3 mm.

6.8 Petri dishes, made of glass or plastic, of diameter between 90 mm and 100 mm.

6.9 Measuring cylinders, of nominal capacities 10 ml, 100 ml and 1 000 ml.

6.10 Bottles, with stoppers, for storing toluidine blue O-DNA agar.

6.11 Test tubes, of diameter 15 mm and length 100 mm.

6.12 Gauze (for example absorbent cotton gauze Ph. Eur. type 20)[1)].

7 Sampling

A representative sample should have been sent to the laboratory. It should not have been damaged or changed during transport or storage.

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1) Absorbent cotton gauze Ph. Eur. type 2 is an example of a suitable product available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this International Standard and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO or IDF of this product.

Sampling is not part of the method specified in this International Standard. A recommended sampling method is given in ISO 707|IDF 50.

Store test samples in such a way that deterioration and change in composition are prevented.

8 Procedure

8.1 Preparation of the test sample

8.1.1 Milk

Adjust 100 ml of test sample to pH 3,8 with hydrochloric acid (5.3).

8.1.2 Milk-based products

Suspend 20 g of test sample and 5 g of skim milk powder (5.6) in 50 ml of water. Adjust the pH to 3,8 with hydrochloric acid (5.3).

The addition of skim milk powder is not necessary for all milk-based products. It may be omitted, for instance, when skim milk powder, whole milk powder or caseins are examined. The addition is required in the case of whey powder, yoghurt and fruit yoghurt and fruit ice cream. For any other milk-based products, the addition of skim milk powder is recommended.

For the examination of cheese, the following extraction procedure may be used as an alternative. Suspend 20 g of cheese in 100 ml of water (at 45 °C) in a blender. After blending, adjust the pH to 4,5 using hydrochloric acid (6 mol/l). Transfer the suspension to a 750 ml flat-bottom flask. Add water up to a final mass of 12,5 times the cheese mass. Agitate the suspension overnight in a water bath set at 25 °C for 16 h. Adjust the pH to 4,5 again. Centrifuge and filtrate the suspension. Continue the procedure as described in 8.1.3 with 100 ml of filtrate.

If skim milk powder is not added, suspend 20 g of test sample in 40 ml water. Adjust the pH to 3,8 with hydrochloric acid (5.3).

8.1.3 General procedure

8.1.3.1 Centrifuge (6.3) the test sample at between 27 000 g and 34 000 g at 5 °C for 20 min.

8.1.3.2 Decant the supernatant. Add 0,05 ml of cold trichloroacetic acid (5.5) for each millilitre of sample and mix.

8.1.3.3 Centrifuge at between 27 000 g and 34 000 g at 5 °C for 20 min.

8.1.3.4 Dissolve the sediment in 1 ml of Tris buffer (5.2.1). Adjust the pH to 8,5 with sodium hydroxide (5.4). Dilute the solution to 2 ml with Tris buffer and mix.

8.1.3.5 Heat the solution in a boiling water bath (6.2) for 15 min.

8.2 Preparation of the test microorganism (positive control)

8.2.1 Inoculate the brain heart infusion broth (5.7) with the test microorganism (5.8). Incubate at 37 °C for 24 h. Centrifuge (6.4) at between 2 800 g and 3 500 g for 15 min. Decant the supernatant.

8.2.2 Heat the supernatant in a boiling water bath (6.2) for 15 min.

The heated supernatant may be stored at 5 °C for about 4 weeks.

If necessary, any *Staphylococcus aureus* strain (for example isolated from milk or milk-based products) may be tested for thermonuclease production in the same way as described for the test microorganism.

8.3 Preparation of the toluidine blue O-DNA agar

Using the hollow cylinder (6.5), cut 2 wells in the agar (5.2.5). Dry the plates, with the lids off and the agar surface downwards, in an incubator (6.1) set at 37 °C for about 60 min.

If there are several samples to be examined, cut up to 10 wells in the agar.

8.4 Detection of thermonuclease

8.4.1 Fill one of the wells with 10 µl of positive control (8.2.2) and the other well(s) with 10 µl (each) of test sample(s) (8.1.3.5).

8.4.2 Incubate (6.1) the Petri dishes (lids uppermost) at 37 °C for 4 h. If the result is negative after 4 h, incubate the dishes for up to 24 h.

9 Evaluation and interpretation

A pink halo extending 1 mm or more beyond the well indicates the presence of thermonuclease (refer to the positive control). Halos showing colours other than pink are not ascribed to thermonuclease activity.

A positive thermonuclease test indicates that coagulase-positive staphylococci have grown to levels of 10^6 or more per gram.

In the case of enterotoxin formation, such counts may lead to toxin concentrations high enough to cause illness. Therefore, products that are positive in the thermonuclease test should be tested for the presence of enterotoxins.

10 Test report

The test report shall specify:

a) all information required for the complete identification of the sample;

b) the sampling method used, if known;

c) the method used, with reference to this International Standard;

d) all operating details not specified in this International Standard, or regarded as optional, together with details of any incident which may have influenced the result(s);

e) the test result(s) obtained and, if the repeatability has been checked, the final quoted results obtained.

Bibliography

[1] ISO 707 | IDF 50, *Milk and milk products — Guidance on sampling*

[2] *Colour Index*, The Society of Dyers and Colourists, Bradford (England) and The American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, North Carolina (USA), 1971

ICS 67.100.01

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