

Australian Standard®

Food microbiology

Method 26: Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs—Horizontal method for the detection of *Escherichia coli* O157

AS 5013.26—2009

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee FT-024, Food Products and Constituted Subcommittee FT-024-01, Food Microbiology.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 16654:2001, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs—Horizontal method for the detection of Escherichia coli O157*. The ISO 16654:2001 was confirmed on 4 April 2007.

The objective of this Standard is to specify a horizontal method for the detection of *Escherichia coli* serogroup O157.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- Its number does not appear on each page of text and its identity is shown only on the cover and the title page.
- In the source text, ‘this International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.
- A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.
- Substitute ‘mL’ for ‘ml’ wherever it appears.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian Standards, as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>		<i>Australian Standard</i>	
ISO		AS	
6887	Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs—Preparation of test samples, initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examinations	5013	Food microbiology
8811	Part 1: General rules for the preparation of the initial suspension and decimal dilutions	5013.11.1	Method 11.1: Microbiology of food and animal feedings stuffs—Preparation of test samples initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examinations—General rules for the preparation of the initial suspension and decimal dilutions

ISO		AS	
7218	Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs—General rules for microbiological examinations	5013.14	Method 14: Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs—General rules for microbiological examinations

The laboratory should have a clearly defined quality control system to ensure that the apparatus, culture media, reagents and technique are suitable for the test. The use of positive controls is part of this system.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which it applies. A 'normative' annex is an integral part of a Standard.

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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 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 this method 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. 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.

WARNING — *Escherichia coli* O157 can cause severe life-threatening illness and has a low infective dose. Laboratory-acquired infections have been reported.

In order to safeguard the health of laboratory personnel, it is essential that the whole of this method be carried out only by skilled personnel using good laboratory practices and preferably working in a containment facility. Relevant national Health and Safety Regulations relating to this organism must be adhered to.

Care must be taken in the disposal of all infectious materials.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a horizontal method for the detection of *Escherichia coli* serogroup O157.

Subject to the limitations discussed in the introduction, this International Standard is applicable to products intended for human consumption or for animal feeding stuffs.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 6887-1, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Preparation of test samples, initial suspension and decimal dilutions for microbiological examination — Part 1: General rules for the preparation of the initial suspension and decimal dilutions.*

ISO 7218, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — General rules for microbiological examinations.*

3 Term and definition

For the purpose of this International Standard, the following term and definition applies.

3.1

***Escherichia coli* O157**

***E. coli* O157**

microorganisms which form typical colonies on the surface of the plating-out medium used in this International Standard and which produce indole and agglutinate specifically with antiserum against the O157 antigen

NOTE 1 Sorbitol-positive *E. coli* O157 strains are not detected on CT-SMAC (5.2) media.

NOTE 2 Some indole-negative mutations have been found.