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**Biological evaluation of medical  
devices —**

Part 12:  
**Sample preparation and reference  
materials**

*Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux —*

*Partie 12: Préparation des échantillons et matériaux de référence*





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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194, *Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 206, *Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 10993-12:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- change of scope to cover extractions only for biological evaluation tests;
- harmonization of definitions with ISO 10993-18;
- revision of [10.3.1](#) extraction condition table and [Annex D](#) regarding exhaustive extraction.

A list of all parts in the ISO 10993 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

It is important that sample preparation methods be appropriate for both the biological evaluation methods and the materials being evaluated. Each biological test method requires the selection of materials, extraction solvents and conditions.

This document is based on existing national and international standards and regulations, wherever possible.



# Biological evaluation of medical devices —

## Part 12: Sample preparation and reference materials

### 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and gives guidance on the procedures in the preparation of samples and the selection of reference materials for medical device testing primarily in biological test systems primarily in accordance with one or more parts of the ISO 10993 series.

Specifically, this document addresses the following:

- test sample selection;
- selection of representative portions from a medical device;
- test sample preparation;
- experimental controls;
- selection of, and requirements for, reference materials;
- preparation of extracts.

This document is not applicable to live cells but can be relevant to the material or medical device components of combination products containing live cells.

Extractions for chemical characterization are covered in ISO 10993-18. [Clause 7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#) [with the exception of 10.3.5 and 10.3.11 b)], and [11](#) can apply to extractions for chemical characterization. Information given in [C.1](#) to [C.4](#) can also be relevant.

### 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

### 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:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

#### 3.1

##### **blank**

extraction vehicle not containing the test material, which is exposed to identical vessels and conditions as the test sample during extraction

Note 1 to entry: The purpose of the blank is to evaluate possible confounding effects due to the extraction vessel, extraction vehicle and extraction process.