



BSI Standards Publication

Biological evaluation of medical devices

Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification
of potential degradation products

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 10993-9:2021. It is identical to ISO 10993-9:2019. It supersedes BS EN ISO 10993-9:2009, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CH/194, Biological evaluation of medical devices.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Supersedes EN ISO 10993-9:2009

English Version

**Biological evaluation of medical devices - Part 9:
Framework for identification and quantification of
potential degradation products (ISO 10993-9:2019)**

Évaluation biologique des dispositifs médicaux
- Partie 9: Cadre pour l'identification et
la quantification des produits potentiels
de dégradation (ISO 10993-9:2019)

Biologische Beurteilung von Medizinprodukten - Teil
9: Rahmen zur Identifizierung und Quantifizierung
von möglichen Abbauprodukten (ISO 10993-9:2019)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 26 May 2021.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

European foreword

This document (EN ISO 10993-9:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194 "Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 206 "Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2022.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO 10993-9:2009.

This document has been prepared under a Standardization Request given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directive(s) / Regulation(s).

For the relationship with EU Directive(s) / Regulation(s), see informative [Annex ZA](#), which is an integral part of this document.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN websites.

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. However, for any use of this document 'within the meaning of [Annex ZA](#)', the user should always check that any referenced document has not been superseded and that its relevant contents can still be considered the generally acknowledged state-of-art.

When an IEC or ISO standard is referred to in the ISO standard text, this shall be understood as a normative reference to the corresponding EN standard, if available, and otherwise to the dated version of the ISO or IEC standard, as listed below.

NOTE The way in which these referenced documents are cited in normative requirements determines the extent (in whole or in part) to which they apply.

Table — Correlations between undated normative references and dated EN and ISO standards

Normative references as listed in Clause 2 of the ISO standard	Equivalent dated standard	
	EN	ISO or IEC
ISO 10993-1	EN ISO 10993-1:2020 ^b	ISO 10993-1:2018
ISO 10993-2	EN ISO 10993-2:2020	ISO 10993-2: 2020 ^a
ISO 10993-13	EN ISO 10993-13:2010	ISO 10993-13:2010
ISO 10993-14	EN ISO 10993-14:2009	ISO 10993-14:2001
ISO 10993-15	EN ISO 10993-15:2020 ^b	ISO 10993-15:2019
^a Under preparation. Documents are at final stage and have to be submitted to ISO/CS for FDIS vote.		
^a Under preparation at European level.		

NOTE This part of EN ISO 10993 refers to ISO 10993-1 which itself refers to ISO 14971. In Europe, it should be assumed that the reference to ISO 14971 is to EN ISO 14971:2020.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic

of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 10993-9:2019 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 10993-9:2021 without any modification.

Annex ZA (informative)

Relationship between this European Standard and the general health and safety requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 on medical devices aimed to be covered

This European standard has been prepared under a Commission's standardisation request to provide one voluntary means of conforming to the General Safety and Performance Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of 5 April 2017 concerning medical devices [O] L 117].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Regulation, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in [Table ZA.1](#) confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding General Safety and Performance Requirements of that Regulation, and associated EFTA regulations.

NOTE 1 Where a reference from a clause of this standard to the risk management process is made, the risk management process needs to be in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2017/745. This means that risks have to be 'reduced as far as possible', 'reduced to the lowest possible level', 'reduced as far as possible and appropriate', 'removed or reduced as far as possible', 'eliminated or reduced as far as possible', 'removed or minimized as far as possible', or 'minimized', according to the wording of the corresponding General Safety and Performance Requirement.

NOTE 2 The manufacturer's policy for determining acceptable risk must be in compliance with General Safety and Performance Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 of the Regulation.

NOTE 3 This [Annex ZA](#) is based on normative references according to the table of references in the European Foreword, replacing the references in the core text.

NOTE 4 When a General Safety and Performance Requirement does not appear in [Table ZA.1](#), it means that it is not addressed by this European Standard.

Table ZA.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2017/745

General health and safety Requirements of Regulation (EU) 2017/745	Clause(s)/sub-clause(s) of this EN	Remarks/Notes
10.1 a), b), c) and h)	4 and Annex A	<p>10.1 a), b), c) and h) only partly covered by ISO 10993-9, since the standard does not provide requirements on design and manufacture.</p> <p>However, this part of ISO 10993 provides considerations on how to plan a degradation study in order to obtain quantitative degradation data as a basis for the safety evaluation of a medical device.</p> <p>Therefore, this standard provides a means to evaluate degradation risks associated with the materials which are used.</p> <p>More product group specific information can be found in ISO 10993-13 (polymers), ISO 10993-14 (ceramics) and ISO 10993-15 (metals and alloys)</p> <p>These tests are not intended to evaluate or determine the performance of the test sample in terms of mechanical or functional loading.</p> <p>For 10.1 a), flammability is not covered.</p>
10.4.1 (first paragraph)	4 and Annex A	<p>10.4.1 is only partly covered by this document. However, this part of ISO 10993 specifies the general principles that govern the design, conduct and interpretation of studies to identify and quantify degradation products arising from materials intended for use in medical devices in order to obtain quantitative degradation data as a basis for the safety evaluation of a medical device.</p> <p>Therefore, this standard provides a means to investigate the risks posed by degradation products that may be released from the medical device.</p> <p>This document does not apply to particles, wear debris or processing residues</p>

GENERAL NOTE Presumption of conformity depends on also complying with the relevant parts of the ISO 10993- series.

WARNING 1 Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European Standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2 Other Union legislation may be applicable to the product(s) falling within the scope of this standard.

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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).

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).

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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 194, *Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 10993-9:2009), which has been technically revised.

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

- a) biodegradation changed to degradation;
- b) information on test methods amended to consider nanomaterials and relevant material specific standards.

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.

Introduction

This document is intended to present the general principles on which the specific material investigations to identify and quantify degradation products described in ISO 10993-13 (polymers), ISO 10993-14 (ceramics) and ISO 10993-15 (metals and alloys) are based.

Information obtained from these studies is intended to be used in the biological evaluations described in the remaining parts of ISO 10993.

The materials used to construct medical devices can form degradation products when exposed to the biological environment, and in the body these products might behave differently to the bulk material.

Mechanical wear, which is not in scope of this document, causes mostly particulate debris, whereas non-mechanical degradation can lead to the release of free ions or to different kinds of reaction products in the form of organic or inorganic compounds.

The degradation products can be either reactive or stable and without biochemical reaction with their environment. Accumulations of substantial quantities of stable degradation products can, however, have physical effects on the surrounding tissues. Degradation products might remain at the location of their generation or might be transported within the biological environment by various mechanisms.

The level of biological tolerability of degradation products depends on their nature and concentration, and should be primarily assessed through clinical experience and focused studies. For theoretically possible, new and/or unknown degradation products, relevant testing is necessary. For well-described and clinically accepted degradation products, further investigation might not be necessary.

Note that the safety and efficacy of a medical device can be compromised as a result of any unintended or premature degradation, which should be considered in the risk management of the device.

This document can be applied to the degradation of materials used in any kind of product that falls within the definition of “medical device” in ISO 10993-1, even if such products are subject to different regulations from those applying to medical devices, e.g. the scaffold in a tissue engineered medical product, or a carrier matrix to deliver drugs or biologics.

Biological evaluation of medical devices —

Part 9:

Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products

1 Scope

This document provides general principles for the systematic evaluation of the potential and observed degradation of medical devices through the design and performance of *in vitro* degradation studies. Information obtained from these studies can be used in the biological evaluation described in the ISO 10993 series.

This document is applicable to both materials designed to degrade in the body as well as materials that are not intended to degrade.

This document is not applicable to:

- a) the evaluation of degradation which occurs by purely mechanical processes; methodologies for the production of this type of degradation product are described in specific product standards, where available;

NOTE Purely mechanical degradation causes mostly particulate matter. Although this is excluded from the scope of this document, such degradation products can evoke a biological response and can undergo biological evaluation as described in other parts of ISO 10993.

- b) leachable components which are not degradation products;
- c) medical devices or components that do not contact the patient's body directly or indirectly.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 10993-1, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process*

ISO 10993-2, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 2: Animal welfare requirements*

ISO 10993-13, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 13: Identification and quantification of degradation products from polymeric medical devices*

ISO 10993-14, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 14: Identification and quantification of degradation products from ceramics*

ISO 10993-15, *Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 10993-1 and the following apply.