INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 10705-1

First edition
1995-08-01

Water quality — Detection and enumeration of bacteriophages —

Part 1:
Enumeration of F-specific RNA bacteriophages

Qualité de l'eau — Détection et dénombrement des bactériophages —
Partie 1: Dénombrement des bactériophages ARN F spécifiques



Reference number
ISO 10705-1:1995(E)

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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 10705-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Microbiological methods*.

ISO 10705 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Detection and enumeration of bacteriophages*:

— *Part 1: Enumeration of F-specific RNA bacteriophages*

— *Part 2: Enumeration of somatic coliphages*

Annex A forms an integral part of this part of ISO 10705. Annexes B and C are for information only.

© ISO 1995
All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from the publisher.

International Organization for Standardization
Case Postale 56 • CH-1211 Genève 20 • Switzerland

Printed in Switzerland

Water quality — Detection and enumeration of bacteriophages —

Part 1:
Enumeration of F-specific RNA bacteriophages

1 Scope

This part of ISO 10705 specifies a method for the detection and enumeration of F-specific ribonucleic acid (RNA) bacteriophages by incubating the sample with an appropriate host strain. The method can be applied to all kinds of water, sediments and sludges, where necessary after dilution. In the case of low numbers, a preconcentration step may be necessary for which a separate part of ISO 10705 will be developed. The method can also be applied to shellfish extracts. Depending on the relative abundance of F-specific RNA bacteriophages to background organisms, additional confirmatory tests may be necessary and are also specified in this part of ISO 10705.

The presence of F-specific RNA bacteriophages in a water sample generally indicates pollution by wastewater contaminated by human or animal faeces. Their survival in the environment, removal by widely used water treatment processes and concentration or retention by shellfish resembles that of foodborne and waterborne human enteric viruses, for example the enteroviruses, hepatitis A virus and rotaviruses.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 10705. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 10705 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 3696:1987, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods.*

ISO 5667-1:1980, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes.*

ISO 5667-2:1991, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 2: Guidance on sampling techniques.*

ISO 5667-3:1994, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Guidance on the preservation and handling of samples.*

ISO 6887:1983, *Microbiology — General guidance for the preparation of dilutions for microbiological examination.*

ISO 8199:1988, *Water quality — General guide to the enumeration of micro-organisms by culture.*

3 Definition

For the purposes of this part of ISO 10705, the following definition applies.

3.1 F-specific RNA bacteriophages: Bacterial viruses which are capable of infecting a specified host strain with F-pili or sex-pili to produce visible plaques (clearance zones) on a confluent lawn grown under appropriate culture conditions, whereas the infectious process is inhibited in the presence of a concentration