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Tourism and related services — Thalassotherapy — Service requirements

Tourisme et services connexes — Thalassothérapie — Exigences de service

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **v**

Introduction ..... **vi**

1 Scope **1**

2 Terms and definitions **1**

3 Facilities and equipment **2**

3.1 Facilities 2

3.1.1 General 2

3.1.2 General services areas 3

3.1.3 Technical area 4

3.1.4 Care areas 4

3.1.5 Facilities for the staff 5

3.2 Equipment 5

3.2.1 Lighting and ventilation 5

3.2.2 Heating and air conditioning systems 6

3.2.3 Equipment to treat waste sea water 6

3.2.4 Drinking water supply 6

4 Staff requirements **6**

4.1 General requirements 6

4.2 Qualifications 6

4.2.1 General 6

4.2.2 Medical and para-medical staff 6

4.2.3 Technical staff 7

4.2.4 Administration staff 7

4.2.5 Other staff 7

4.3 Training 7

5 Care elements: Raw materials **7**

5.1 Sea water 7

5.1.1 Water intake 7

5.1.2 Transport and storage 8

5.1.3 Usage at various stations 8

5.2 Seaweed and marine mud 8

5.2.1 General requirements 8

5.2.2 Use of seaweed and storage conditions 8

5.2.3 Use of marine muds 8

5.2.4 Monitoring product quality 9

5.2.5 Traceability of used products 9

6 Hygiene system **9**

6.1 General requirements 9

6.2 Access to the thalassotherapy centre 10

6.3 Raw materials' quality control 10

6.3.1 General 10

6.3.2 Sea water 11

6.3.3 Seaweed and marine mud 11

6.4 Maintenance of equipment 12

6.5 Maintenance and cleaning 12

6.5.1 General 12

6.5.2 Cleaning and disinfection plan 13

6.5.3 Monitoring efficiency 13

6.5.4 Waste management 13

6.6 Linen management 13

6.6.1 Reusable linen 13

6.6.2 Single usage linen or paper 14

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6.7 Staff 14
7 Services to customers 14
7.1 General 14
7.2 Information 14
7.3 Claims 15
8 Support processes 15
8.1 Commercialization 15
8.2 Design and development 15
8.3 Environmental policy 15
8.3.1 General requirements 15
8.3.2 Energy consumption 16
8.3.3 Resources consumption 16
8.3.4 Pollution reduction and management 16
9 Self-control 16
Annex A (normative) **Table related to microbiological criteria applicable to sea water used in thalassotherapy 17**
Annex B (normative) **Tables related to standards and acceptable limits of physical-chemical and toxicological parameters of the used sea water 18**
Annex C (informative) **Average composition of sea water 19**
Bibliography 20

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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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: Foreword — Supplementary information.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 228, *Tourism and related services.*

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Introduction

Thalassotherapy comes from the Greek word for “sea”, and refers to the medical use of the beneficial properties of the sea (which includes coastal climate, seawater, marine mud, seaweed, sand, and other substances extracted from the sea) in a preventative and remedial aim.

The curative qualities of seawater and seaside climate have been used for therapeutic purposes since Roman times; today thalassotherapy is also seen as a veritable aid to wellbeing.

Along with recharging batteries, taking care of one self and reducing stress, thalassotherapy helps to find harmony with the body and spirit as well as to solve a specific problem, such as: tone up muscles, trouble sleeping, blood circulation, arthritis, menopausal or respiratory system disorder.

Thalassotherapy comes in a bewildering array of packages: mud and sea water baths, underwater showers, hydro-massage, aromatherapy, inhalation and drinking, seaweed and mud wraps. All those exists to help restore your body to a state of serenity fit for a mermaid.

For a treatment to be successful, it is important to get advice from trained professionals and the aim of this standard is to ensure good quality services in thalassotherapy centres with health treatments always supported by the medical opinion.

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Tourism and related services — Thalassotherapy — Service requirements

1 Scope

This International Standard establishes the requirements for the provision of services in thalassotherapy centres using marine environment's beneficial effects with curative or preventive purposes, aiming at ensuring

— Good quality services responding to customer's implicit and explicit needs,

— The respectful use of the thalassotherapy concept,

— Very specifically, the implementation of hygiene and safety principles, and

— The comfort to the customers.

This International Standard does not deal with the therapeutic virtues supposed to be offered by thalassotherapy nor does it cover decisions that correspond to the medical profession.

This International Standard does not apply to accommodation nor to catering services.

It is understood that all national legal obligations especially regarding hygiene, health, consumers, and employees are to be fulfilled by the thalassotherapy centre.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1
bath
body immersion in sea water that provides pain release and relaxation effects

Note 1 to entry: Bath can result in peripheral vasodilatation or vasoconstriction depending on the customer's status of health and the medical prescription.

2.2
customer
client receiving thalassotherapy centre services

2.3
cosmetic product
any preparation containing micronized seaweed or extracts of marine seaweed used in thalassotherapy services

2.4
hydro-therapist
person in charge of practicing and providing care services prescribed by the doctor, with the exception of medical massages and specific re-education care, undertaken by a physiotherapist and technician in thalassotherapy and/or hydrotherapy

2.5
marine mud
cataplasm of natural sedimentary sludge, made up of a mix of alluvia, planktons, seaweed, minerals, and trace elements

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