



BSI Standards Publication

**Quantitative surface test for  
the evaluation of residual  
antimicrobial (bactericidal  
and/or yeasticidal) efficacy of  
liquid chemical disinfectants  
on hard non-porous surfaces –  
Test method**

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## Contents

<b>Foreword</b>	<i>iii</i>
<b>Introduction</b>	<i>1</i>
1	Scope <i>3</i>
2	Normative references <i>3</i>
3	Terms, definitions and abbreviations <i>4</i>
3.1	Terms and definitions <i>4</i>
3.2	Abbreviations <i>4</i>
4	Principle <i>5</i>
5	Performance requirements <i>5</i>
5.1	General <i>5</i>
5.2	Requirements for residual bactericidal activity <i>5</i>
5.3	Requirements for residual yeasticidal activity <i>5</i>
6	Materials and reagents <i>6</i>
6.1	Test organisms <i>6</i>
6.2	Culture media and reagents <i>6</i>
6.3	Test surface <i>8</i>
7	Apparatus <i>9</i>
8	Preparation <i>10</i>
8.1	Organism test suspensions <i>10</i>
8.2	Preparation of test product <i>12</i>
8.3	Preparation of test surface <i>12</i>
9	Procedure <i>14</i>
9.1	Experimental conditions <i>14</i>
9.2	Abrasion regime <i>14</i>
9.3	Final inoculation and residual antimicrobial challenge <i>17</i>
9.4	Counting of the test mixtures and calculation of log reduction <i>18</i>
9.5	Validation experiments <i>20</i>
10	Calculation and expression of results <i>24</i>
10.1	Basic limits and verification of methodology <i>24</i>
10.2	Residual activity on non-porous surfaces for general purposes <i>24</i>
10.3	Residual activity on non-porous surfaces for specific purposes <i>25</i>
11	Test report <i>25</i>
<b>Annexes</b>	
Annex A (informative)	Neutralizers <i>29</i>
Annex B (informative)	Steel disc holder <i>30</i>
Bibliography <i>31</i>	
<b>List of figures</b>	
Figure 1	Preparation of test surface <i>13</i>
Figure 2	Folding of polypropylene wipe <i>15</i>
Figure 3	Abrasion <i>15</i>
Figure 4	Re-inoculation <i>16</i>
Figure 5	Final inoculation and residual antimicrobial challenge <i>18</i>
Figure 6	Example test report – Residual antimicrobial activity on surfaces in general use conditions <i>26</i>
Figure B.1	Steel disc holder <i>30</i>
<b>List of tables</b>	
Table 1	Summary of abrasion regime <i>17</i>
Table 2	Example test results <i>27</i>
Table A.1	Neutralizers <i>29</i>

### Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 32, an inside back cover and a back cover.



## Foreword

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The provisions of this PAS are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its methods are expressed as a set of instructions, a description, or in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

Spelling conforms to The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary. If a word has more than one spelling, the first spelling is used.

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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# Introduction

## Background

Increasingly, numerous biocidal products are displaying claims of residual antimicrobial activity (e.g. long-lasting protection, 24-h protection and residual action). With these emerging product claims and the impending Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) which requires the submission of product dossiers to substantiate product claims, there is a need for a test method by which residual antimicrobial activity can be measured and assessed.

At present there is no European Standard test methodology for assessing the residual antimicrobial activity of a chemical disinfectant/antimicrobial product, therefore researchers and companies have designed test methods in an attempt to demonstrate residual antimicrobial efficacy and support these claims. However, these methods largely involve applying a product to a surface and leaving it for a defined period of time before challenging with micro-organisms. The limitation of such methods is that the surface remains undisturbed following application. In reality, consumer research (*Cleaning Behaviours in the Home* [1]) shows that when observing behavioural habits in the domestic environment or workplace, once a product has been applied to a surface, the surface is continually exposed to abrasion such as touching and wiping. This results in potential re-soiling and re-contamination of the surface before the next time a product is applied. Consumer research (*Cleaning Behaviours in the Home* [1]) also shows that the application of a product typically occurs every 24 h.

The test method in PAS 2424 has therefore been designed to reflect within a laboratory test method the actual conditions in which a product is designed to be used. It takes into consideration abrasion and re-contamination by including abrasion cycles and re-inoculations over a 24-h period and remains as close as possible to the practical conditions that are outlined in the current European Standards (e.g. test surface, contact times, micro-organisms, organic load, etc).

## Overview of the test method in this PAS

- a) An initial inoculum of bacteria or yeast is applied to a steel disc and allowed to dry. This initial step simulates a contaminated surface before the application of a disinfectant product.
- b) A prepared sample of the test product (chemical disinfectant) is applied to the inoculated disc and allowed to dry. This gives a dried treatment which represents a surface that is likely to be exposed to abrasion and re-contamination before the next time it is treated with a disinfectant product.
- c) Over a period of 24 h the disc undergoes a series of abrasion cycles and re-inoculations which are designed to simulate the abrasion and re-contamination (via touch and exposure) of a surface in between treatment with a disinfectant product.
- d) The disc is exposed to a final inoculum challenge (24 h after product application) under defined conditions for a specified contact time. The final inoculum challenge simulates an event that will promote the application of a disinfectant product.
- e) After the specified contact time the disc is transferred to a validated neutralizer solution so that the action of the residual disinfectant is quenched. The number of surviving organisms which can be recovered from the disc is determined quantitatively.

- f) The number of micro-organisms on a disc treated with hard water in place of disinfectant is also determined. The reduction in viable counts as a result of the residual product is calculated by the difference. In order to demonstrate residual efficacy the product shall give a  $\geq 3$  log reduction when challenged 24 h after product application.

## Relationship with other publications

PAS 2424 has been designed to take into consideration the experimental conditions set out in BS EN 1276:2009, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Quantitative suspension test for the evaluation of bactericidal activity of chemical disinfectants and antiseptics used in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas – Test method and requirements (phase 2/step 1)* and BS EN 13697:2001, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Quantitative non-porous surface test for the evaluation of bactericidal and/or fungicidal activity of chemical disinfectants used in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas – Test method and requirements without mechanical action (phase 2/step 2)*. These standards have been chosen because they are recognized test methods that contain experimental conditions representative of the conditions of use of chemical disinfectant products.

BS EN 13697:2001 involves applying an inoculum to a surface and allowing it to dry before applying a test product to the dried film for a specified contact time and transferring the surface to neutralization medium to quench the antimicrobial reaction. PAS 2424 is not designed to test a product at this initial stage but is intended to assess the residual efficacy of a product that has dried onto a surface which is subsequently exposed to abrasion.

Therefore, PAS 2424 has been designed as an extension of BS EN 13697:2001 and is intended to be used in conjunction with this recognized standard allowing BS EN 13697:2001 to assess the initial antimicrobial action of a product and PAS 2424 to assess the residual antimicrobial action.

It is for this reason that the results from PAS 2424 will only be considered if the product tested also achieves a pass according to BS EN 13697:2001 ( $\geq 4$  log reduction) under conditions required for the product's application of use (e.g. specified contact times, micro-organisms, organic load, etc.).

## Conclusion

PAS 2424 is regarded as a suitable solution for screening disinfectant products for their residual antimicrobial efficacy on a surface, and takes into consideration that surfaces are subjected to a degree of abrasion post-treatment. Ultimately, the test is designed to show how a disinfectant product will most likely perform in terms of its real usage, and will enable residual antimicrobial efficacy claims to be made about the product.

This document specifies a test method for determining whether a product does or does not have residual antimicrobial (bactericidal and/or yeasticidal) properties on hard, non-porous surfaces over a 24-h time period with abrasive action.

This laboratory test simulates practical conditions of application and therefore takes into account factors such as contact time, temperature, test organisms, test surface and interfering substance, i.e. conditions which may influence its action in practical situations.

The conditions are intended to cover general purposes and to allow reference between laboratories and product types. However, for some applications, the recommendations of use of a product may differ and therefore additional test conditions need to be used.

## 1 Scope

This PAS specifies a test method for residual bactericidal and/or yeasticidal activity of liquid, chemical disinfectant products that are applied to hard, non-porous surfaces which are likely to undergo abrasive action. The method described is intended to determine the activity of commercial formulations or active substances under the conditions in which they are used in accordance with BS EN 13697:2001.

It has been designed as an extension of BS EN 13697:2001 and is intended to be used in conjunction with this recognized standard allowing BS EN 13697:2001 to assess the initial antimicrobial action of a product and PAS 2424 to assess the residual antimicrobial action. Therefore the results from this PAS will only be considered if the product tested also achieves a pass according to BS EN 13697:2001 ( $\geq 4$  log reduction) under conditions required for the test product's application of use (e.g. specified contact times, micro-organisms, organic load, etc.).

It is applicable to ready-to-use products or dilute-to-use products that form a homogeneous, physically stable preparation when diluted with hard water.

It is applicable to products that are used in areas that are covered in BS EN 13697:2001. This includes but is not limited to hard surfaces in the food industry, institutional areas such as schools, hospitals and nursing homes, in the workplace and in the home/domestic environment.

It is not applicable to thickened or viscous products such as toilet bleaches or gels, wash-off products and products that are permanently bound to a surface.

This PAS is designed for laboratories that perform antimicrobial testing in order to test the residual antimicrobial properties of liquid, chemical disinfectant products.

*NOTE 1 The sticky nature of thickened products and gels make the abrasion regime difficult to perform and therefore could lead to unreliable results.*

*NOTE 2 The testing of wash-off products would require a method with the inclusion of a rinsing step.*

*NOTE 3 Intrinsically antimicrobial surfaces are designed to remain active for longer than the 24 h covered in this test method.*

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application 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.

BS EN 10088-1, *Stainless steels – Part 1: List of stainless steels*

BS EN 10088-2, *Stainless steels – Technical delivery conditions for sheet/plate and strip of corrosion resisting steels for general purposes*

BS EN 12353, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Preservation of test organisms used for the determination of bactericidal (including Legionella), mycobactericidal, sporicidal, fungicidal and virucidal (including bacteriophages) activity*

BS EN 1276:2009, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Quantitative suspension test for the evaluation of bactericidal activity of chemical disinfectants and antiseptics used in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas – Test method and requirements (phase 2/step 1)*

BS EN 13697:2001, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Quantitative non-porous surface test for the evaluation of bactericidal and/or fungicidal activity of chemical disinfectants used in food, industrial, domestic and institutional areas – Test method and requirements without mechanical action (phase 2/step 2)*

BS EN 14885:2006, *Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Application of European Standards for chemical disinfectants and antiseptics*