

Biotechnology — Performance criteria for microbiological safety cabinets

The European Standard EN 12469:2000 has the status of a
British Standard

ICS 07.080; 07.100.01

National foreword

This British Standard is the official English language version of EN 12469:2000. It supersedes Parts 1 and 3 of the 1992 edition of BS 5726, which relate to the specification, performance and testing of microbiological safety cabinets. The remaining parts of BS 5726 are being revised to give guidance on the selection, installation and maintenance of microbiological safety cabinets.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CII/58, Biotechnology, which has the responsibility to:

- aid enquirers to understand the text;
- present to the responsible European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
- monitor related international and European developments and promulgate them in the UK.

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

EN 12469 was developed by CEN/TC 233 *Biotechnology* in support of 90/219/EEC Council Directive of 23 April 1990 on the contained use of genetically modified organisms, and 90/679/EEC Council Directive of 29 November 1990 on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to biological agents at work. It applies to microbiological safety cabinets used for other purposes, including containment of biological agents and infected animals.

Note Directive 90/219/EEC was amended by 98/81/EC Council Directive of 26 October 1998 on community classification of biological agents.

BS EN 12469 differs from the 1992 edition of BS 5726 in the following aspects.

- The mandatory part of the standard includes a type test for operator protection. However, this is only optional at installation and is not specifically required at routine maintenance.
- Some other important items which were mandatory in BS 5726, such as airflows and dimensions, are included in EN 12469 only as informative annexes.
- The option of potassium iodide or bacterial challenge testing for operator protection remain, but the methods for bacterial testing have been brought into line with those specified by the National Sanitation Foundation (USA) in NAF 49 for Class II microbiological safety cabinets, and the results are expressed in absolute values rather than as a ratio.
- Requirements for installation and commissioning remain open.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 1999 regulations give requirements for performance of risk assessments for maintenance and control of microbiological safety cabinets and purchasers and users are advised to consult the HSE/C guidance notes including that produced by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens.

Cross-references

The British Standards which implement international or European publications referred to in this document may be found in the BSI Standards Catalogue under the section entitled “International Standards Correspondence Index”, or by using the “Find” facility of the BSI Standards Electronic Catalogue.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, the EN title page, pages 2 to 45 and a back cover.

The BSI copyright notice displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Sector Committee for Materials and Chemicals, was published under the authority of the Standards Committee and comes into effect on 15 July 2000

© BSI 07-2000

ISBN 0 580 34869 5

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments