

Disinfectants Commission in the Association for Applied Hygiene (VAH)

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Statement on the equivalence of tests performed according to the "Standard Test Methods of the DGHM for testing chemical disinfection procedures" and tests according to European Standards (CEN TC 216)¹

The DGHM standard test methods (1) as of Sept 1st 2001 incorporated the actual versions of European Standards of CEN TC 216 to achieve a maximum possible European harmonization. They are identical to European test methods for the medical area with regard to interfering substances (simulated clean or dirty conditions) and the controls of the validity of test conditions, such as non-toxicity of experimental conditions, non-toxicity of the used neutralizer and effectivity of the neutralisation of the disinfectant at the end of the contact time. The principle of a stepwise approach, i. e. testing in a suspension test simulating conditions of relevance to practice (EN phase 2, step 1) and then in a test simulating practice (EN phase 2, step 2) has been realised in DGHM tests for many years. This concept has also been followed in the CEN TC 216 test principles. It is reasonable to assume that differences in details how the test is carried out and that the control of non-toxicity of test conditions (water control) is used instead of the calculated colony count in the test mix

for calculation of reduction do not lead to significantly different evaluations of chemical disinfectants and disinfection procedures. Since the DGHM methods present partly a higher challenge for the disinfectant under test and never a lower one, it is guaranteed that passing a DGHM test means passing the equivalent European test.

Hence, standard test methods and requirements according to DGHM include the criteria of European standards for testing of the efficacy of disinfectants. The following table presents an overview of DGHM test procedures which can be regarded at least as equivalent to EN tests:

Reference

1. Gebel J, Werner HP, Kirsch-Altana A, Bansemir K: Standardmethoden der DGHM zur Prüfung chemischer Desinfektionsverfahren. Stand: 1. 9. 2001. mhp-Verlag GmbH: Wiesbaden, 2002.

| DGHM Methods (no.) | Standards According To CEN TC 216 |
|---|---|
| Quantitative suspension test with bacteria (9.1) | EN 13727 – bactericidal |
| Quantitative suspension test with yeasts and moulds (9.2) | EN 13624 – yeasticidal or fungicidal |
| Quantitative suspension test with mycobacteria (9.3) | EN 14348 – tuberculocidal or mycobactericidal |
| Instrument disinfection with bacteria – test simulating practice (15) | EN 14561 – bactericidal activity of instrument disinfectants |
| Instrument disinfection with yeasts and moulds – test simulating practice (15) | EN 14562 – yeasticidal or fungicidal activity of instrument disinfectants |
| Instrument disinfection with mycobacteria – test simulating practice (15) | EN 14563 – tuberculocidal or mycobactericidal activity of instrument disinfectants |
| Surface disinfection without mechanical action with bacteria, yeasts, moulds mycobacteria – test simulating practice (14) | EN 13697 – but with interfering substances relevant for the medical area, bactericidal and/or yeasticidal and/or fungicidal and/or tuberculocidal and/or mycobactericidal activity of surface disinfectants applied without mechanical action |
| Hygienic hand wash (10) | EN 1499 – hygienic hand wash |
| Hygienic hand rub (11) | EN 1500 – hygienic hand rub |
| Surgical hand disinfection (12) | EN 12791 – surgical hand rub and –wash |

¹ This is the English translation of the German statement published in HygMed 2007; 32 [4], S. 128-129.