

ICS 11.080.01

CCS C 59



**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB 15979-2024

Replacing GB 15979-2002

Hygienic requirements for disposable sanitary products

一次性使用卫生用品卫生要求

Issued on: June 25, 2024

Implemented on: July 1, 2025

**Issued by: State Administration for Market Regulation;
Standardization Administration of the PRC**

Table of Contents

1 Scope
2 Normative References
3 Terms and Definitions...
4 Hygienic Requirements for Raw Materials
5 Hygienic Requirements for Production Process
6 Hygienic Requirements for Products...
7 Test Methods...
7.2 Test Methods for Product Hygienic Requirements
8 Packaging, Transportation and Storage...
9 Marking...
Appendix A

1 Scope

GB 15979 governs the hygiene of disposable sanitary products - sanitary towels and tampons, nappies, wet wipes, disposable face masks, gloves and the paper products used in contact with skin or mucosa. It sets the requirements for the raw materials, for the production environment and process, and for the finished product, with limits on total bacterial count, coliforms, pathogenic bacteria, fungi and residual substances, followed by the test methods in six normative annexes, the packaging, transport and storage, the marking and the implementation timetable. It is one of the most widely applied consumer hygiene standards in China. Issued on 25 June 2024, in force since 1 July 2025, replacing GB 15979-2002. This page is published from the official record of the standard held by the Chinese standards administration: the identification, the dates, the classification and the edition it replaces are taken from there. The clause text, the tables and the numeric limits are not reproduced on this page - they are in the document itself, which is delivered in full in English translation.

This document specifies the hygienic requirements for raw materials, production process and products, as well as the requirements for packaging, transportation, storage and marking of disposable sanitary products, and describes the corresponding test methods. This document is applicable to disposable sanitary products sold and used.

2 Normative References

The contents of the following documents constitute indispensable clauses of this document

through the normative references in the text. In terms of references with a specified date, only versions with a specified date are applicable to this document. In terms of references without a specified date, the latest version (including all the modifications) is applicable to this document.

GB/T 191 Packaging - Pictorial Marking for Handling of Goods

GB 5749 Standards for Drinking Water Quality

GB/T 8939 Sanitary Absorbent Pads (panty liner)

GB/T 15981 Evaluating Method for the Efficacy of Sterilization for Disinfection Equipment

GB/T 26367 Hygienic Requirements for Biguanides Disinfectants

GB/T 26369 Hygienic Requirement for Quaternary Ammonium Disinfectant

GB/T 27741 Paper and Board - Determination of Migratable Fluorescent Whitening Agents

GB/T 27947 Hygienic Requirements for Phenol Disinfectant

GB/T 28004.1 Disposable Diapers - Part

4 Hygienic Requirements for Raw Materials

4.1 Raw materials shall comply with the requirements of relevant specifications and standards for disinfection products and shall be non-toxic and harmless. The packaging of raw materials shall clearly indicate the name of the contents, production organization, production date or production batch No.; raw materials with special requirements shall indicate storage conditions and shelf life.

4.2 Discarded or used disposable sanitary products shall not be used as raw materials or semi-finished products.

4.3 The following prohibited substances must not be added to the raw materials.

a) Drugs listed in Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China and their raw materials with the same name shall not be added to antibacterial (bacteriostatic) agents (disinfectants and antiseptics, traditional Chinese medicines and bacteriostatic agents are excluded, as well as pharmaceutical excipients and purified water); preparations used to generate active or passive immunity, such as vaccines, serum or toxins and their products, and preparations used to diagnose immune status, protein and peptide preparations (except lysozyme and lysostaphin); prohibited chemical substances (except iodine) listed in Safety Technical Specifications for Cosmetics; other prohibited substances stipulated by the national health administrative department and other substances with a definite hazard to human health.

b) Hygiene wet wipes and other disposable sanitary products with antibacterial (bacteriostatic) functions shall not contain antibacterial drugs, antifungal drugs, antiviral

drugs, hormone drugs and their raw materials of the same name, etc., and other prohibited substances stipulated by the national health administrative department and other substances with a definite hazard to human health.

c) Non-woven fabrics, fabrics or other raw materials shall not contain prohibited ingredients, for example, migratory fluorescent whitening agents.

5 Hygienic Requirements for Production Process

5.1 The purchase, storage, distribution and use of raw and auxiliary materials shall satisfy the product quality control requirements and comply with management system regulations.

5.2 The production environment hygiene indicator requirements are as follows:

a) The air in the antibacterial (bacteriostatic) agent production workshop shall comply with the requirements of Hygienic Standard for Disinfection Product Production Enterprises, and the purification workshop shall comply with the requirements of GB 50073; the total number of colonies in the air of other disposable sanitary products production workshops shall be less than or equal to 2,500 CFU/m³ (the air sampler method) or shall be less than or equal to 16 CFU/(plate 5 min) (the plate exposure method).

b) The total number of colonies on workbench surfaces that are in direct contact with unpackaged products shall be less than or equal to 20 CFU/cm².

c) The total number of colonies on the hands of workers who are in direct contact with unpackaged products shall be less than or equal to 300 CFU/hand (glove).

5.3 The initial contaminating bacteria of disinfection-grade disposable sanitary products shall be less than or equal to 10,000 CFU/g or CFU/mL.

5.4 Disinfection methods used for disinfection-grade disposable sanitary products shall be tested for disinfection effectiveness and shall comply with the following requirements.

a) Ethylene oxide disinfection. the killing log value of *Bacillus subtilis* black variant (ATCC 9372) spores is greater than or equal to 3.00;

b) Ionizing radiation disinfection. the killing log value of *Bacillus pumilus* E601 (ATCC 27142) spores is greater than or equal to 3.00;

c) Pressure steam disinfection. the killing log value of *Bacillus stearothermophilus* the requirements of Appendix A.

7.1.2 The test method for initial contaminating bacteria shall comply with the requirements of Appendix B.

7.1.3 The test and evaluation method for the disinfection effect shall comply with the requirements of Appendix C.

7.2 Test Methods for Product Hygienic Requirements

7.2.1 The appearance of the product is determined through the methods of visual inspection and sniffing.

7.2.2 The pH of absorbent products, such as. sanitary napkins and sanitary pads, etc. shall be determined in accordance with the method of GB/T 8939. If there are corresponding determination standards on the pH of other products, conduct the determination in accordance with the methods in the corresponding standards. If there is no corresponding determination standard, conduct the determination in accordance with the method of WS/T 10009.

7.2.3 Migratory fluorescent whitening agent. sanitary napkins (pads) shall be determined in accordance with the method of GB/T 8939; diapers shall respectively be determined in accordance with the methods of GB/T 28004.1 and GB/T 28004.2; other sanitary products shall be determined in accordance with the method of GB/T 27741.

7.2.4 The test of lead, arsenic and mercury shall be carried out in accordance with the methods of Safety Technical Specifications for Cosmetics.

7.2.5 The test method for ethylene oxide residue in products shall comply with the requirements of Appendix D.

7.2.6 The test methods for bactericidal performance, bacteriostatic performance and stability of the products shall comply with the requirements of Appendix E.

7.2.7 Chlorhexidine gluconate and chlorhexidine acetate shall be determined in accordance with the methods specified in GB/T 26367 and relevant national standards; 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenyl ether shall be determined in accordance with the methods specified in GB/T 27947 and relevant national standards; benzalkonium bromide and benzalkonium chloride shall be determined in accordance with the methods specified in GB/T 26369 and relevant national standards; the contents of other active ingredients shall be determined in accordance with the methods specified in WS/T 10009 and relevant national standards; those that cannot be determined using chemical determination methods will not be determined here.

7.2.8 The toxicological test methods for the products shall comply with the requirements of Appendix F.

7.2.9 The microbiological test methods for the products shall comply with the requirements of Appendix B.

Appendix A

(normative) Test Methods for Production Environment Hygienic Requirements A.1 Air Sampling and Test Methods A.1.1 Sample collection If the indoor area is less than or equal