

Glossary ^{*)}

Detection limit	<p>Smallest possibly detectable amount.</p> <p>The detection limit is the smallest value of the concentration of an analyte, for which the testing method provides signal values that are statistically and significantly different from “zero”.</p> <p>The smallest amount of microorganisms that can be detected, whereas the specified values cannot be exactly measured.</p>
Registration limit	The smallest value of an analyte, which actually exists and which is detected with the appropriate confidence level and which can be identified in accordance with the criteria of the method.
Quantification limit	<p>Smallest quantifiable amount.</p> <p>It concerns the amount that can be quantitatively registered with a predetermined accuracy and precision.</p>
Exactness	Scope of the correspondence between the analysis result and the anticipated value with the components precision (coincidental deviation) and accuracy (systematic deviation).
Accuracy	<p>Distance of the average value from the correct (“genuine”) value, which is determined by systematic errors (bias).</p> <p>statistical value: average value</p>
Precision	<p>Level of statistical spread of individual values around the average value; the statistical spread is the result of coincidental errors.</p> <p>statistical value: standard deviation</p>
Repeatability	<p>Precision under repeated conditions.</p> <p>Repeated conditions are conditions, under which analysis results, which are independent of each other, can be determined in short time intervals; namely with the same method, for identical samples, in the same laboratory, by the same processor and with the same equipment.</p>
Comparability	<p>Precision under comparable conditions.</p> <p>Comparable conditions are conditions, under which analysis results, which are independent of each other, can be determined in short time intervals; namely with the same method, for identical samples, but in different laboratories, by different processors and with different equipment.</p>

^{*)} Translation for information purposes only. The German version is authoritative.

Measurement uncertainty	Parameter assigned to the measurement result, which indicates the statistical spread of the values that can be reasonably assigned to the measurement category.
Recovery rate	The recovery or recovery rate is the relationship of the average value measured under repeated conditions with regard to the correct value of the analyte in the sample.
Reference material	Material or substance of sufficient homogeneity, which itself or of which one or more characteristic values are determined so precisely that they can be used for the calibration of measurement equipment, the assessment of measurement methods or the assignment of substance values.
Certified reference material	Reference material with a certificate, in which one or more characteristic values are certified on the basis of a measurement method stating the uncertainty and the corresponding confidence level, with which the traceability of the values to an accurate realisation of the unit can be guaranteed.
Reference method	<p>Carefully verified test method, which clearly and unambiguously describes the requirements and procedures necessary for the determination of one or more characteristic values.</p> <p>This method has been proven to have an accuracy, which is equally appropriate for the intended purpose of use. Therefore, it can be used in order to assess the exactness of other methods for one and the same measurement purpose, especially through the analysis of reference material.</p>
Linearity	Linearity is the ability of a method to provide results within a predetermined concentration range, which are directly proportional to the concentration of the analyte.
Reproducibility	Level of correspondence of results from the measurements of one and the same tester under modified test requirements.
Sensitivity	The ability of a test method to detect small changes in the amount of microorganisms within a predetermined matrix.
Selectivity	Selectivity is the ability of a method to register different, parallel determinable components without mutual interference and, consequently, to identify them unambiguously.

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Specificity	Specificity is the ability of a method to register a substance or a substance class without corruption by other components present in the sample and, consequently, to identify them unambiguously.
Verification	Affirmation on account of a test and by providing an objective proof that the predetermined requirements have been met.
Validation	Affirmation on account of a test and by providing an objective proof that the special requirements for a particular intended use have been met.
Negative deviation	Negative deviation occurs when the alternative measurement method provides a negative result without affirmation approach, whereas the reference method shows a positive result. This deviation leads to a wrongly negative result.
Positive deviation	Positive deviation occurs when the alternative measurement method provides a positive result without affirmation approach, whereas the reference method shows a negative result. This deviation leads to a wrongly positive result.
Reference strains	Populations of microorganisms, which originate from an approved national strain collection.
Reference population	Reference strain, which is cultivated and stored in a laboratory.
Working populations	Subpopulations of microorganisms, which originate from the reference populations and which are used for a short-term working period.
Relative reliability	The relative reliability is the correspondence of the results determined with the method to be tested in comparison with the values, which are determined with an approved reference method in the framework of an evaluation test.