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# Water microbiology

**Method 3: Enumeration of heterotrophic microorganisms — Pour plate, spread plate, membrane filtration and most probable number techniques**

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- Australian Society for Microbiology Incorporated
- Australian Water Association
- Chemistry Australia
- National Association of Testing Authorities Australia
- National Measurement Institute
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## **Method 3: Enumeration of heterotrophic microorganisms — Pour plate, spread plate, membrane filtration and most probable number techniques**

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## Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee, FT-020, Water Microbiology, to supersede AS/NZS 4276.3.1—2007, *Water microbiology, Method 3.1: Heterotrophic colony count methods — Pour plate method using yeast extract agar*, and AS/NZS 4276.3.2—2003, *Water microbiology, Method 3.2: Heterotrophic colony count methods — Plate count of water containing biocides*.

The objective of this document is to establish a standard method for the examination of water, with or without biocides, for the enumeration of heterotrophic microorganisms that covers a choice of possible techniques. The choice of procedure and medium will depend on the sample to be tested and the application of the results.

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) Combine the methods of AS/NZS 4276.3.1—2007 with AS/NZS 4276.3.2—2003.
- (b) Update culture media and reagents.
- (c) Update reference cultures.
- (d) Update the normative and informative references.

The term “informative” is used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which it applies. An “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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