

USP METHODS vs. PCPC METHODS

Understanding which microbiological testing approach is right for your product.

DIFFERENT APPROACHES. A SHARED GOAL. SAFE, HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS.

USP METHODS

COMPENDIAL STANDARDS
WITH BROAD APPLICATION

USP-NF provides standardized, compendial methods to assess the microbiological quality of a wide range of products, including pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, ingredients, medical products and other applicable nonsterile products.

COMMON EXAMPLES



USP <61>

Microbiological Examination of Nonsterile Products — Microbial Enumeration Tests



USP <62>

Microbiological Examination of Nonsterile Products — Tests for Specified Microorganisms



USP <51>

Antimicrobial Effectiveness Testing

KEY FEATURES



Compendial and widely recognized global standards



Broad applicability across multiple industries and product types



Often required by regulatory agencies or customer specifications

DIFFERENT
SOURCES.
A SHARED
PURPOSE.



TWO
APPROACHES.
ONE GOAL.

SAFE
HIGH-QUALITY
PRODUCTS
FOR CONSUMERS
EVERY DAY



PCPC METHODS

COSMETIC-INDUSTRY GUIDANCE

The Personal Care Products Council (PCPC) publishes microbiology guidelines and industry guidance specifically for cosmetics and personal-care products. These documents provide recommended testing approaches, best practices and industry perspectives for cosmetic microbiological quality programs.

INCLUDES GUIDANCE ON



Microbiological quality programs



Recommended testing approaches



Best practices for product categories and manufacturing environments



Industry perspectives for cosmetics and personal-care products

KEY FEATURES



Designed specifically for cosmetics and personal-care products



Practical, science-based industry guidance



Complements (not replaces) USP methods



Helps support product safety, quality and preservation

WHEN SHOULD YOU USE EACH?



PHARMACEUTICAL / REGULATED PRODUCT

Follow applicable USP methods and regulatory requirements.



COSMETIC / PERSONAL-CARE PRODUCT

Consider PCPC guidance alongside applicable USP methods.



CUSTOMER SPECIFICATION

Use the method specified by your customer or regulatory requirement.



ALTERNATIVE METHOD

If an alternative method is used, confirm suitability/validation and demonstrate equivalency where required.



DIFFERENT METHODS. A HEALTHIER, SAFER TOMORROW.

Whether your product is a pharmaceutical, personal-care item or another consumer product, we provide the testing solutions to help you meet quality, regulatory and market needs.



BUREAU
VERITAS

TESTING TODAY FOR A MORE CONFIDENT TOMORROW