Draft Tanzania Standard

Textiles - Cotton Swabs – Specifications

TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

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DRAFT TANZANIA STANDARD

Textiles-Cotton Swabs – Specifications TDC3 (5125)P_3

0 FOREWORD:

0.1 A Cotton swab is essential for removing dirt from the ear. This Draft Tanzania Standard specifies minimum requirements for cotton swabs that meet the essential specifications.

0.2 In the preparation of this Draft Tanzania Standard, assistance was derived from KS 2245:2010 Cotton ear buds specification.

0.3 In reporting the result of a test made in accordance with this Draft Tanzania Standard, if the final value observed or calculated is to be rounded off, it shall be done in accordance with TZS 4: 2009. (See clause 2).

1 SCOPE

This Draft Tanzania Standard specifies the minimum requirements of cotton swabs meant for personal hygiene tasks.

2 REFERENCES

For the purpose of this This Draft Tanzania Standard, the following references shall apply;

2.1 TZS 4:2009 Rounding off numerical values

2.2 TZS 26:1981 Textiles – Determination of conductivity, pH water soluble matter, chloride and sulphate in aqueous extract.

2.3 TZS 326: 1989 Textiles – Ternary fibre mixtures – Quantitative analysis

2.4 TZS 327:1988 Textiles – Binary fibre mixtures – Quantitative chemical analysis

2.5 TZS 532:1995 Textiles – Preparation of laboratory test specimens for chemical testing.

2.6 TZS 534:1995:2005 – Textiles – Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing.

3. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Draft Tanzania Standard the following terms and definitions shall apply.

3.1 **Swab:** small piece of soft material (in this case cotton fibre) usually on the end of a stick/stem used for cleaning ears, applying medicine or cleaning a wound.

3.2 Cotton swab: short stick/stem that has round pieces of cotton at both ends.

3.3 Stem: solid long slender piece of stick used to hold cotton wool on both ends.

3.4 Mass of swab: quantity or aggregate or amount of cotton fibre present on a stem of a cotton swab.

4. MATERIALS

4.1 The cotton fibres shall be well-carded and bleached to a good white, free from dust and other foreign matters. It may be slightly off white if it is sterilized. It shall offer considerable resistance when pulled.

4.2 The cotton swabs shall be made of the following materials.

I. Surgical cotton wool, covered at both ends of either extruded plastic stem.
II. Sterilized absorbent Cotton wool covered at both ends of either extruded plastic.

5 MANUFACTURE.

5.1 Each swab shall be formed by enclosing cotton in both ends of extruded sticks to form a ball with nipple. It shall be uniform in shape.

5.2 A minimum number of 50 swabs shall be packed in a container or bag unless otherwise agreed to between the buyer and the supplier (manufacturer).

6. REQUIREMENTS

S/No	characteristics	Requirements	Test Methods
1	pH value.	6.5 to 8.5	TZS 26:1981
2	Mass of swab (grams), Min.	0.03 g	In accordance with Annex C
3	Fibre composition (%)	100% cotton	TZS 327:1988
4	Moisture regain (%)	shall not exceed 8%	TZS 534:1995 or in accordance with Annex B
5	Stem/stick	Length 72 ± 1mm Diameter 2.0 ± 0.2mm	Physical

7 SAMPLING

7.1-Acceptable sample of cotton swabs in a bag shall be of 50pcs min:

8. Lot:

All the swabs of the same material and produced under similar conditions of manufacture shall be grouped to constitute a lot.

9. PACKING

Cotton swabs shall be packed in ~~a~~ suitable container, each with a minimum number of 50 swabs or as agreed between buyer and supplier.

10. MARKING

The packages shall be legibly and permanently marked with the following information:

a. Indication of the source of manufacture and registered trade mark;
b. Number of swabs in the package;
c. Batch number;
d. Date of manufacture;
e. The words ‘’cotton swabs’’ on the container or box;
f. Instruction for use and disposal.
g. pH value.

ANNEX A

Method of determination of Fluorescent Brightening Agents

A1. Principle

A layer of cotton material is examined under ultra-violet radiation for detection of any fluorescent materials.

A2 Apparatus

A2.1 Ultra-violet light source

A2.2 Scale, graduated in mm.

A3. Procedure.

A3.1 Examine a layer, about 5 mm in thickness, under ultra-violet radiation, of wavelength 365 nm.

A4. Report

The sample may show only slight brownish-violet fluorescence and not more than an occasional yellow particle. It shows no intense blue fluorescence except that which may be shown by a few isolated fibres.

ANNEX B

Method of Determination of Moisture Regain

B1. Principle

A known mass of absorbent cotton material is dried and then the loss in mass is expressed as a ratio of the dry mass.

B2. Apparatus

B2.1 weighing balance

B2.2 Drier, with temperature control

B3. Procedure

B3.1 Weigh (M_1) a known amount of cotton material, dry it at a temperature of 100^0C to 105^0C until constant mass is obtained.

B3.2 Weigh (M_1) again. This is the dry mass.

B4. Calculation

Moisture regain $= \frac{M1-M2}{M2} \times 100$

B5 Report

Report the value calculated in **B4** as the moisture regain in per cent.

ANNEX C

Determination of Mass of swab

C1. Principle

Mass of a swab taken from one of a stick/stem is measured on a weighing balance.

C2. Apparatus

C2.1 weighing balance, accuracy 0.001g

C3. Procedure

C3.1 Condition the specimen in accordance with TZS 534:1995/ISO 139:2005

C3.2 Take the mass of the conditioned swab with a weighing balance **C2.1**. Take mass measurement of four other swabs. Calculate the average mass of swab from five measurements.

C4. Report

Report the average mass of the swab in **C3.2** as the mass of swab.