

**SS 625:2016(2023)**  
(ICS 71.100.40)

**SINGAPORE STANDARD**

# **Specification for liquid hand soap**

Confirmed and classified as a mature standard 2023



## **SS 625:2016(2023)**

(ICS 71.100.40)

---

SINGAPORE STANDARD

### **Specification for liquid hand soap**

---

Published by Enterprise Singapore

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilised in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilming, without permission in writing from Enterprise Singapore. Request for permission can be sent to: [standards@enterprisesg.gov.sg](mailto:standards@enterprisesg.gov.sg).

© Enterprise Singapore 2016

ISBN 978-981-4726-92-4

**Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
Foreword _____	3
1 Scope _____	5
2 Normative references _____	5
3 Terms and definitions _____	5
4 Requirements _____	6
5 Sampling and preparations of test samples _____	7
6 Packaging _____	7
7 Stability _____	8
8 Labelling _____	8

**Annexes**

A Determination of total active matter content in detergents (normative) _____	9
B Primary biodegradability test methods for surfactants in detergents (informative) _____	13
C Ultimate biodegradability (mineralisation) test methods for surfactants in detergents (informative) _____	15

**Tables**

1 Properties and test methods of soap-based liquid soap _____	6
2 Properties and test methods of synthetic surfactant-based liquid soap _____	7

**Foreword**

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Fast-moving Consumer Goods set up by the Technical Committee on Chemistry under the purview of the Chemical Standards Committee.

There is currently no known standard in Singapore that specifies the quality of liquid hand soap or a standard that is referred to by purchasers or agencies involved in the purchase and usage of liquid hand soap. With the emphasis on proper handwashing procedures, this Singapore Standard is developed to provide the minimum quality requirements for liquid hand soap.

In preparing this standard, references were made to the following publications:

BS 1545 : 1990	Specification for liquid toilet soap
BS 4405 : 1990	Specification for liquid soap
EC Regulation No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004	Detergents
GB/T 13173 : 2008	Surface active agents – Detergents – Testing methods
QB 1994 - 2004	Bath agents and shower agents
QB 2654 - 2004	Hand cleaner
SS 231 : 2013	Specification for laundry detergent powder for household use in manual washing

Some of the contents of this standard are reproduced with the permission of the following organisations and all rights are reserved by the respective parties:

International Organization for Standardization	Clauses 3.1 and 3.2 are from ISO 9000:2015
BSI Standards Ltd	The test method for total fatty matter described in Table 1 is from Appendix A of BS 1545:1990
Standardization Administration of China	Annex A is from Clause 7 of GB/T 13173: 2008
European Union	Annexes B and C of this standard are from EC Regulations No. 648/2004 on detergents, Annexes II and III ( <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu">http://eur-lex.europa.eu</a> , © European Union, 1998-2016)

Acknowledgement is made for the use of information from the above publications.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Singapore Standard may be the subject of patent rights. Enterprise Singapore shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

**NOTE**

1. *Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions. Where SSs are deemed to be stable, i.e. no foreseeable changes in them, they will be classified as “mature standards”. Mature standards will not be subject to further review unless there are requests to review such standards.*
2. *An SS or TR is voluntary in nature except when it is made mandatory by a regulatory authority. It can also be cited in contracts making its application a business necessity. Users are advised to assess and determine whether the SS or TR is suitable for their intended use or purpose. If required, they should refer to the relevant professionals or experts for advice on the use of the document. Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Standards Council shall not be liable for any damages whether directly or indirectly suffered by anyone or any organisation as a result of the use of any SS or TR. Although care has been taken to draft this standard, users are also advised to ensure that they apply the information after due diligence.*
3. *Compliance with a SS or TR does not exempt users from any legal obligations.*

## Specification for liquid hand soap

### 1 Scope

This Singapore Standard defines the specifications of liquid hand soap meant for direct application to the skin exclusively for hand cleansing purposes. It covers the requirements for soap-based and synthetic surfactant-based liquid hand soap.

This standard excludes alcohol-based hand products that do not require rinsing. This standard is not intended to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this standard. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 673	Soaps – Determination of content of ethanol-insoluble matter
BS 1715-2.1/ISO 685	Analysis of soaps. Quantitative test methods. Method for determination of total alkali content and total fatty matter content
BS 1715-2.2/ISO 684	Analysis of soaps. Quantitative test methods. Method for determination of total free alkali content
ISO 4316	Surface active agents – Determination of pH of aqueous solutions – Potentiometric method

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this Singapore Standard, the following terms and definitions apply:

#### 3.1 Customer

Person or organisation that could or does receive a product or a service that is intended for or required by this person or organisation.

EXAMPLE – Consumer, client, end-user, retailer, receiver of product or service from an internal process, beneficiary and purchaser.

Note 1 to entry: A customer can be internal or external to the organisation.

#### 3.2 Provider / Supplier

Organisation that provides a product or a service.

EXAMPLE – Producer, distributor, retailer or vendor of a product or a service.

Note 1 to entry: A provider can be internal or external to the organisation.

Note 2 to entry: In a contractual situation, a provider is sometimes called “contractor”.