

IS 18267: 2024

Food Serving Utensils Made from Agri By-products — Specification (First Revision)

The demand for the disposable/one time use food serving utensils in the gatherings and social activities have increased in the recent years, due to the advantage of no cleaning efforts after the usage. Most of such disposable utensils are polythene based and ultimately non-degradable, posing environmental concerns. Use of degradable, preferably biodegradable materials for the manufacture of such disposable utensils has gained importance over the years. Many agriculture-based materials, usually leaves, sheaths, etc. are preferred for making the utensils in the form of plates, cups, bowls, etc as per requirement. Such materials are the waste or by-products of cultivation practices and available at no or low cost. The leaves/sheath are collected from the fields, as fallen, or removed after the harvest of the economic part of the plant/crop.

In the recent years, the number of manufacturers of degradable utensils has increased across the country. These manufacturers produce the utensils as per their standards and quality. This standard was originally published in 2023 to guide the manufacturers and the consumers on the quality parameters and ensure uniform standards across the country. In order to resolve the problems faced in the implementation of this standard, a need was felt to revise this standard.

- a. The requirement for bending test for utensils made through hot pressing and moulding method has been omitted as this test is not relevant for such utensils;
- b. In terminology, the definitions of the terms ‘moisture content (dry basis)’ and ‘normal temperature’ have been incorporated for guidance;
- c. Tolerances on the dimension of the utensils have been reset and categorized based on the size of utensils; and
- d. The reference standard for the test method for the presence of the microorganism has been changed to IS 5402 (Part 1).

During preparation of this standard, significant assistance has been drawn with respect to testing methodology of various parameters from GB 18006-2008 (National

Standard of the People's Republic of China) and the report of research study 'Evaluation of agro-based disposable utensils for defining their standard and test methods carried out at ICAR-Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology, Ludhiana.