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Workplace air — General requirements for the performance of procedures for the measurement of chemical agents

Air des lieux de travail — Exigences générales concernant les performances des procédures de mesure des agents chimiques

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Contents

Page

Foreword ... **iv**
Introduction ... **v**
1 Scope ... **1**
2 Normative references ... **1**
3 Terms and definitions ... **2**
4 Classification ... **2**
4.1 General ... 2
4.2 Screening measurements of time-weighted average concentration ... 2
4.3 Screening measurements of variation of concentration in time and/or space ... 2
4.4 Measurements for comparison with occupational exposure limit values ... 2
4.5 Periodic measurements ... 2
5 Performance requirements ... **3**
5.1 General ... 3
5.2 Screening measurements of time-weighted average concentration ... 3
5.3 Screening measurements of variation of concentration in time and/or space ... 3
5.4 Measurements for comparison with limit values and periodic measurements ... 3
5.4.1 Unambiguity ... 3
5.4.2 Selectivity ... 3
5.4.3 Averaging time ... 4
5.4.4 Measuring range ... 4
5.4.5 Expanded uncertainty ... 4
5.4.6 Chemical agents where compliant methods are not available ... 4
5.5 Composite procedures ... 4
5.6 Transport, handling and/or storage ... 5
5.7 Environmental conditions ... 5
5.8 Description of measuring procedure ... 5
5.9 Dimension of result ... 5
5.10 Additional requirements ... 5
6 Test method ... **6**
7 Validation report ... **7**
Annex A (informative) **Structure of a method description** ... **8**
Annex B (informative) **Calculation of uncertainty of measurement** ... **9**
Bibliography ... **16**

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Workplace atmospheres*.

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Introduction

National laws and regulations require the assessment of the potential exposure of a worker to chemical agents in workplace atmospheres. One way of assessing such exposure is to measure the concentration of a chemical agent in the air in the worker's breathing zone. The procedures used for such measurements should provide reliable and valid results for the comparison purpose of exposure measurements with occupational exposure limit values and for the provision of acceptable control strategies.

This document is based on EN 482:2012, amended by Amendment 1:2015, and introduces general requirements to fulfil the measurement procedures in the process of quantitative exposure assessment. Specific International Standards and European Standards have been prepared for different types of measuring procedures and measuring devices. These include standards for airborne particle samplers [EN 13205 (all parts)], diffusive samplers (ISO 16107 and EN 838), pumped samplers (EN 1076), short-term detector tubes (ISO 17621), personal sampling pumps (ISO 13137), metals and metalloids in airborne particles (EN 13890), mixtures of airborne particles and vapour (EN 13936) and direct reading instruments for toxic gases and vapours [EN 45544 (all parts)]. In these specific standards, additional requirements have been included for the procedure or device in question, so that the general requirements of this document are not compromised. Where no specific International and/or European Standard exists, only the general requirements apply.

Performance requirements given in this document are intended to apply under environmental conditions present at the workplace. However, because a wide range of environmental conditions is encountered in practice, this document specifies requirements that have to be fulfilled by measuring procedures when tested under prescribed laboratory conditions.

It is the user's responsibility to choose the appropriate procedures or devices that meet the requirements of this document. One way of doing this is to obtain information or confirmation from the provider of a procedure or the manufacturer of a device. Type-testing or, more generally, assessment of the performance of procedures or devices, can be undertaken by the manufacturer, user, testing house or research and development laboratory, as is most appropriate. A number of existing procedures for workplace measurements have either been tested over a part of the required minimum measuring range, but not over the entire range, or have not been tested for all environmental influences and potential interferences. If these partially validated procedures meet the performance requirements of this document, they can be used at present. Nevertheless, these procedures should be tested over the full ranges as soon as is reasonably practicable.

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Workplace air — General requirements for the performance of procedures for the measurement of chemical agents

1 Scope

This document specifies general performance requirements for procedures for the determination of the concentration of chemical agents in workplace atmospheres. These requirements apply to all steps of measuring procedures regardless of the physical form of the chemical agent (gas, vapour, airborne particles), measuring procedures with separate sampling and analytical methods, and direct-reading devices.

This document specifies requirements that have to be fulfilled by measuring procedures when tested under prescribed laboratory conditions due to a wide range of environmental conditions encountered in practice.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 78-2, *Chemistry — Layouts for standards — Part 2: Methods of chemical analysis*

ISO 7708, *Air quality — Particle size fraction definitions for health-related sampling*

ISO 13137, *Workplace atmospheres — Pumps for personal sampling of chemical and biological agents — Requirements and test methods*

ISO 16107, *Workplace atmospheres — Protocol for evaluating the performance of diffusive samplers*

ISO 17621, *Workplace atmospheres — Short term detector tube measurement systems — Requirements and test methods*

EN 838, *Workplace exposure — Procedures for measuring gases and vapours using diffusive samplers — Requirements and test methods*

EN 1076, *Workplace exposure — Procedures for measuring gases and vapours using pumped samplers — Requirements and test methods*

EN 13205 (all parts), *Workplace exposure — Assessment of sampler performance for measurement of airborne particle concentrations*

EN 13890, *Workplace exposure — Procedures for measuring metals and metalloids in airborne particles — Requirements and test methods*

EN 13936, *Workplace exposure — Procedures for measuring a chemical agent present as a mixture of airborne particles and vapour — Requirements and test methods*

EN 45544 (all parts), *Workplace atmospheres — Electrical apparatus used for the direct detection and direct concentration measurement of toxic gases and vapours*

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3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 18158 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

4 Classification

4.1 General

In this document, measurements are classified according to their purposes. These classifications are based upon the measurement strategy in EN 689.

4.2 Screening measurements of time-weighted average concentration

Screening measurements of time-weighted average concentration are performed to obtain semiquantitative information on exposure levels. Such information is used to identify potential health hazards, and to estimate the risk to health based on the likely severity of harm and the probability of its occurrence. These measurements can also determine if the exposure is significantly below or above the occupational exposure limit value (OELV). Apparatus intended for detection and concentration measurements of chemical agents, that meets the requirements of this document and is capable of reporting the time-weighted average, can be used.

4.3 Screening measurements of variation of concentration in time and/or space

Screening measurements of variation of concentration in time and/or space are used to provide information on the likely pattern of the concentration of chemical agents in the air and to identify locations and periods of elevated exposure. The screening measurements also provide information on the location and intensity of emission sources and to estimate the effectiveness of ventilation or other technical measures. Apparatus intended for detection and concentration measurements of chemical agents, that meets the requirements of this document, can be used.

4.4 Measurements for comparison with occupational exposure limit values

Provided the method meets established acceptable uncertainty criteria, measurements can be made for comparison with OELVs. Measurements can be taken to determine whether a worker's exposure exceeds the OELV initially and repeated after any significant change in working conditions, industrial process, products or chemicals, or OELV.

4.5 Periodic measurements

Periodic measurements are used to determine whether exposure conditions have changed since the measurements for comparison with OELVs were performed, or whether control measures remain effective. The interval between measurements should be established based on the initial occupational exposure assessment or subsequent amendments to it.

NOTE Since the composition of the workplace atmosphere will have been investigated during the initial occupational exposure assessment and the composition is known not to vary over time, it can be appropriate for periodic measurements to use procedures with lower selectivity.

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