



BSI Standards Publication

Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products

Part 11: Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in plastics
by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and
liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS)

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN IEC 62321-11:2024. It is identical to IEC 62321-11:2023.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee GEL/111, Electrotechnical environment committee.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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English Version

Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products
- Part 11: Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in plastics by
gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and liquid
chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS)
(IEC 62321-11:2023)

Détermination de certaines substances dans les produits
électrotechniques - Partie 11: Phosphate de tris(2-
chloroéthyle) (TCEP) dans les plastiques par
chromatographie en phase gazeuse-spectrométrie de
masse (GC-MS) et chromatographie en phase liquide-
spectrométrie de masse (LC-MS)
(IEC 62321-11:2023)

Verfahren zur Bestimmung von bestimmten Substanzen in
Produkten der Elektrotechnik - Teil 11: Tris(2-
chloroethyl)phosphat (TCEP) in Kunststoffen mit
Gaschromatographie-Massenspektrometrie (GC-MS) und
Flüssigkeitschromatographie-Massenspektrometrie
(LC-MS)
(IEC 62321-11:2023)

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European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation Electrotechnique
Europäisches Komitee für Elektrotechnische Normung

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European foreword

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The following dates are fixed:

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In the official version, for Bibliography, the following note has to be added for the standard indicated:

ISO 472:2013 NOTE Approved as EN ISO 472:2013 (not modified)

Annex ZA (normative)

Normative references to international publications with their corresponding European publications

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.

NOTE 1 Where an International Publication has been modified by common modifications, indicated by (mod), the relevant EN/HD applies.

NOTE 2 Up-to-date information on the latest versions of the European Standards listed in this annex is available here: www.cencenelec.eu.

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IEC 62321-2	2021	Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products - Part 2: Disassembly, disjointment and mechanical sample preparation	EN IEC 62321-2	2021

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES
IN ELECTROTECHNICAL PRODUCTS –****Part 11: Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in plastics by gas
chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and liquid
chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS)**

FOREWORD

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IEC 62321-11 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 111: Environmental standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems, in collaboration with ISO subcommittee SC 5: Physical-chemical properties of ISO technical committee 61: Plastics. It is an International Standard.

It is published as a double logo standard.

The text of this International Standard is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
111/723/FDIS	111/735A/RVD

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this International Standard is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/publications.

A list of all parts in the IEC 62321 series, published under the general title *Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn, or
- revised.

INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of electrotechnical products has drawn increased attention to their impact on the environment. In many countries, this has resulted in the adoption of regulations affecting wastes, substances, and energy use of electrotechnical products.

The use of certain substances (e.g. lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs)) in electrotechnical products is a source of concern in current and proposed regional legislation.

The purpose of the IEC 62321 series is therefore to provide test methods that will allow the electrotechnical industry to determine the levels of certain substances of concern in electrotechnical products on a consistent global basis.

This first edition of IEC 62321-11 introduces a new subject covering tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in the IEC 62321 series.

TCEP is a halogenated phosphorus-based flame retardant that is disclosable as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) as it is classified as toxic to reproduction category 2 (R60) and was included in the candidate list for authorization on 13 January 2010, following ECHA's decision ED/68/2009 [1]¹ and in regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 ANNEX XVI [2].

TCEP is used as a flame retardant in plastics such as polyester and polyurethane foam and as a plasticizer in polyvinyl chloride. Additionally, TCEP is used as an alternative for brominated flame retardants that have been restricted. No applicable testing standard exists for TCEP analysis in plastics.

As a result, analysis criteria have been established by an IEC TC 111 and ISO/TC 61/SC 5 joint working group for the joint development of an IEC and ISO double logo International Standard, to provide a test method that will allow the industry to determine the concentrations of TCEP in plastics.

WARNING – Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN ELECTROTECHNICAL PRODUCTS –

Part 11: Tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in plastics by gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS)

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62321 specifies two different techniques for the determination of tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) in plastics, the GC-MS or LC-MS method, both of which are applicable to quantitative analysis.

These two techniques are applicable to use with polyurethane, polyvinylchloride, and polyethylene materials containing TCEP between 200 mg/kg to 2 000 mg/kg.

These test methods do not apply to plastic materials having a processing temperature higher than 230 °C.

GC-MS using a pyrolyser/thermal desorption accessory (Py/TD-GC-MS) technique is described in Annex A and can be used for the screening of TCEP in plastics.

NOTE TCEP starts thermal decomposition at approximately 230 °C. Polymer types that have a processing temperature into shapes of plastics (e.g. pellets, moulded parts or sheets) not exceeding the decomposition temperature can contain TCEP.

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.

IEC 62321-1:2013, *Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products – Part 1: Introduction and overview*

IEC 62321-2:2021, *Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products – Part 2: Disassembly, disjointment and mechanical sample preparation*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1.1 screening

analytical procedure to determine the presence or absence of substances in the representative part or section of a product, relative to the value or values chosen as the criterion for presence, absence, or further testing

Note 1 to entry: If the screening method produces values that are not conclusive, then additional analysis or other follow-up actions can be necessary to make a final presence or absence decision.

3.1.2 plastic

material that contains as an essential ingredient a high polymer and which, at some stage in its processing into finished products, can be shaped by flow

Note 1 to entry: Elastomeric materials, which are also shaped by flow, are not considered to be plastics.

Note 2 to entry: In some countries, particularly the United Kingdom, the term "plastics" is used as the singular form as well as the plural form.

[SOURCE: ISO 472:2013 [3], 2.702]

3.1.3 polymer

substance composed of molecules characterized by the multiple repetition of one or more species of atoms or groups of atoms (constitutional units) linked to each other in amounts sufficient to provide a set of properties that do not vary markedly with the addition or removal of one or a few of the constitutional units

[SOURCE: ISO 1382:2020 [4], 3.369]

3.1.4 blank

test that follows the same procedures and conditions as the sample test without a sample, which enables quantification of the contamination in the test

3.2 Abbreviated terms

ACN	acetonitrile
API-ES	atmospheric pressure ionization-electrostatic
BSA	N,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)acetamide
BSTFA	N,O-bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide
CCC	continuing calibration check standard
<i>D</i>	dilution factor
DEHP	di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate
DMDCS	dimethyldichlorosilane
EI	electron ionization
GC-MS	gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
HPLC	high-performance liquid chromatography
ID	internal diameter
IIS	international interlaboratory study
IS	internal standard
LC-MS	liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry
LOD	limit of detection
MDL	method detection limit

MS	mass spectrometry
PBB	polybrominated biphenyl
PBDE	polybrominated diphenyl ether
PE	polyethylene
PS	polystyrene
PTFE	polytetrafluoroethylene
PUR	polyurethane
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
Py/TD-GC-MS	gas chromatography-mass spectrometry using a pyrolyser/thermal desorption accessory
QC	quality control
RF	response factor
RRF	relative response factor
RSD	relative standard deviation
SIM	single (or "selected") ion monitoring
TCEP	tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate
TD	thermal desorption
THF	tetrahydrofuran
TICS	tentatively identified compounds

4 Principle

The samples are dissolved in THF and the matrix polymer is separated by precipitation with methanol, TCEP is determined qualitatively and quantitatively using GC-MS or LC-MS.

5 Reagents and materials

Use chemicals of analytical grade, unless otherwise indicated.

- TCEP (tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate): CAS No. 115-96-8 (purity of greater than a mass fraction of 98 %);
- THF (GC grade or higher, higher than 99,9 %);
- n-Hexane (GC grade or higher, higher than 98,5 %);
- methanol (GC grade or higher, higher than 99,9 %);
- mixed solvent (THF mixed with methanol, the volume ratio of THF/methanol is 1/4);
- helium (purity of greater than a volume fraction of 99,999 %);
- calibrants; reference materials of TCEP (purity of greater than a mass fraction of 98 %);
- surrogate and internal standards:
 - surrogate standard is used to monitor analytes recovery according to 8.2.2.1 and 8.2.3.1, for example TCEP-d₁₂;
 - internal standard is used to correct injection errors, according to 8.2.2.1 and 8.2.3.1, for example anthracene-d₁₀.

The standards are acceptable when using a quadruple-type mass spectrometer. A high-resolution mass spectrometer will require the use of other suitable standard substances having a mass and elution time similar to that of the analyte.