



BSI Standards Publication

Water quality — Lead-210 — Test method using liquid scintillation counting

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 13163:2022. It is identical to ISO 13163:2021. It supersedes BS EN ISO 13163:2019, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EH/3/8, Radioactivity measurements methods.

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

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English Version

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Qualité de l'eau - Plomb 210 - Méthode d'essai par comptage des scintillations en milieu liquide (ISO 13163:2021)

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Blei-210 - Verfahren mit dem Flüssigszintillationszähler (ISO 13163:2021)

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European foreword

The text of ISO 13163:2021 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147 "Water quality" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 13163:2022 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 230 "Water analysis" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2022.

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

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 13163:2021 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 13163:2022 without any modification.

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Water quality — Lead-210 — Test method using liquid scintillation counting

*Qualité de l'eau — Plomb 210 — Méthode d'essai par comptage des
scintillations en milieu liquide*





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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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Radioactivity measurements*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13163:2013), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- addition of the common introduction;
- transfer of separation processes to an annex.

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Introduction

Radioactivity from several naturally-occurring and anthropogenic sources is present throughout the environment. Thus, water bodies (e.g. surface waters, ground waters, sea waters) can contain radionuclides of natural, human-made, or both origins:

- natural radionuclides, including ^{40}K , ^3H , ^{14}C , and those originating from the thorium and uranium decay series, in particular ^{226}Ra , ^{228}Ra , ^{234}U , ^{238}U , ^{210}Po and ^{210}Pb can be found in water for natural reasons (e.g. desorption from the soil and washoff by rain water) or can be released from technological processes involving naturally occurring radioactive materials (e.g. the mining and processing of mineral sands or phosphate fertilizers production and use);
- human-made radionuclides such as transuranium elements (americium, plutonium, neptunium, curium), ^3H , ^{14}C , ^{90}Sr , and gamma emitting radionuclides can also be found in natural waters. Small quantities of these radionuclides are discharged from nuclear fuel cycle facilities into the environment as a result of authorized routine releases. Some of these radionuclides used for medical and industrial applications are also released into the environment after use. Anthropogenic radionuclides are also found in waters as a result of past fallout contaminations resulting from the explosion in the atmosphere of nuclear devices and accidents such as those that occurred in Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Radionuclide activity concentration in water bodies can vary according to local geological characteristics and climatic conditions and can be locally and temporally enhanced by releases from nuclear installation during planned, existing, and emergency exposure situations.^{[1][2]} Drinking-water can thus contain radionuclides at activity concentrations that could present a risk to human health.

The radionuclides present in liquid effluents are usually controlled before being discharged into the environment^[3] and water bodies. Drinking waters are monitored for their radioactivity as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO)^[4] so that proper actions can be taken to ensure that there is no adverse health effect to the public. Following these international recommendations, national regulations usually specify radionuclide authorized concentration limits for liquid effluent discharged to the environment and radionuclide guidance levels for waterbodies and drinking waters for planned, existing, and emergency exposure situations. Compliance with these limits can be assessed using measurement results with their associated uncertainties as specified by ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 and ISO 5667-20^[5].

Depending on the exposure situation, there are different limits and guidance levels that would result in an action to reduce health risk. As an example, during a planned or existing situation, the WHO guidelines^[4] for guidance level in drinking water is $0,1 \text{ Bq}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$ for ^{210}Pb activity concentration.

NOTE 1 The guidance level is the activity concentration with an intake of $2 \text{ l}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$ of drinking water for one year that results in an effective dose of $0,1 \text{ mSv}\cdot\text{a}^{-1}$ for members of the public. This is an effective dose that represents a very low level of risk and which is not expected to give rise to any detectable adverse health effects^[4].

In the event of a nuclear emergency, the WHO Codex Guideline Levels^[6] mention that the activity concentration might not be greater than $0,1 \text{ Bq}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$ for ^{210}Pb .

NOTE 2 The Codex guidelines levels (GLs) apply to radionuclides contained in foods destined for human consumption and traded internationally, which have been contaminated following a nuclear or radiological emergency. These GLs apply to food after reconstitution or as prepared for consumption, i.e., not to dried or concentrated foods, and are based on an intervention exemption level of 1 mSv in a year for members of the public (infant and adult)^[6].

Thus, the test method can be adapted so that the characteristic limits, decision threshold, detection limit and uncertainties ensure that the radionuclide activity concentrations test results can be verified to be below the guidance levels required by a national authority for either planned/existing situations or for an emergency situation^{[2][6][7]}.

Usually, the test methods can be adjusted to measure the activity concentration of the radionuclide(s) in either wastewaters before storage or in liquid effluents before being discharged to the environment.