

Ambient air — Determination of particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons by high performance liquid chromatography

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National foreword

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- present to the responsible international/European committee any enquiries on the interpretation, or proposals for change, and keep the UK interests informed;
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Summary of pages

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Ambient air — Determination of particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons by high performance liquid chromatography

Air ambiant — Détermination des particules d'hydrocarbures aromatiques polycycliques par chromatographie liquide à haute performance



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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.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 16362 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Ambient atmospheres*.

Introduction

Several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are considered to be potential human carcinogens. PAHs are emitted into the atmosphere primarily through combustion of fossil fuel and wood. Two- and three-ring PAHs are typically present in urban air at concentrations ranging from ten to several hundred nanograms per cubic metre (ng/m^3); those with four or more rings are usually found at concentrations of a few nanograms per cubic metre or lower. PAHs possess saturation vapour pressures at 25 °C that range from 10^{-2} kPa to less than 10^{-13} kPa. Those with vapour pressures above 10^{-8} kPa may be substantially distributed between the gas phase and particle-associated (particulate) phase in the atmosphere. The distribution between phases depends on ambient temperature, humidity, types and concentrations of PAHs and particulate matter, and residence time in the air. PAHs, especially those having vapour pressures above 10^{-8} kPa, tend to vaporize from particle filters during sampling.

This International Standard allows the determination of low volatility, particle-bound PAHs, in contrast to ISO 12884^[1] which allows the measurement of PAHs in the gas phase. This International Standard allows the use of a range of sampler flowrates, and requires the use of high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with the detection carried out by either fluorescence detection or UV absorption.

Ambient air — Determination of particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons by high performance liquid chromatography

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies sampling, clean-up and analysis procedures for the quantitative determination of low volatility (particle-bound) polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in ambient air. For sampling, a low-volume or a medium/high-volume sampling device may be used. Sampling times between 1 h and 24 h are possible. The sampling volume flowrates can range from 1 m³/h to 4 m³/h ("low volume sampler") or from 10 m³/h to about 90 m³/h ("medium/high-volume sampler"). In any case, the linear face velocity at the collection filter should range between about 0,5 m/s and 0,9 m/s.

The method has been validated for sampling periods up to 24 h. The detection limits for single PAHs and the standard deviations resulting from duplicate measurements are listed in 9.2 and Annex D respectively.

This International Standard describes a sampling and analysis procedure for PAH that involves collection from air onto a filter followed by analysis using high performance liquid chromatography usually with fluorescence detector (FLD). The use of a diode array detector (DAD) is possible. The combination of both detector types is also possible (see Annex B). Total suspended particulate matter is sampled.

Generally, compounds having a boiling point above 430 °C (vapour pressure less than 10⁻⁹ kPa at 25 °C, e.g. chrysene, benz[a]anthracene) can be collected efficiently on the filter at low ambient temperatures (e.g. below 10 °C). In contrast, at higher temperatures (above 30 °C, see also ISO 12884^[1]), only PAHs having boiling points above 475 °C (vapour pressure less than 10⁻¹⁰ kPa at 25 °C) are determined quantitatively (see Annex F).

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

blank value solution

solution which contains the chemicals used in making up the sample solution batch and the constituents influencing the measurement in the same or similar concentration as the sample to be analysed, but to which the compound to be determined has expressly not been added

2.2

low-volume sampling device

sampling device with a volume flowrate of 1 m³/h to 4 m³/h

2.3

medium/high-volume sampling device

sampling device with a volume flowrate of 10 m³/h to about 90 m³/h

3 Symbols and abbreviated terms

3.1 Symbols

A_i	peak area of component i
A_{IS}	peak area of internal standard
ρ	mass concentration
f	response factors, slope of straight line
m_i	mass of component i
m_{IS}	mass of internal standard
M_r	relative molecular mass (molecular weight)
V	volume

3.2 Abbreviated terms

ASE	accelerated solvent extraction
b.p.	boiling point
DAD	diode array detector (UV absorption)
FLD	fluorescence detector
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
SOP	standard operating procedure
UV	ultraviolet
WHO	World Health Organization

4 Principle of the procedure

For sampling, sampling devices with volume flowrates from 1 m³/h to about 90 m³/h may be used. The particulate matter, onto which the PAHs are adsorbed, is collected on glass or quartz fibre filters.

The PAHs are extracted and the extract concentrated. If necessary, the extracts may be cleaned by column chromatography using silica gel.

The PAHs are determined by HPLC using DAD or FLD. For quality assurance, internal standards are added.

5 Reagents, apparatus and materials

5.1 Reagents

5.1.1 Solvents for analysis: water, acetonitrile, toluene (all solvents of chromatographic grade).

5.1.2 Solvents for sample preparation: chromatographic grade toluene, cyclohexane and acetonitrile.

The chromatograms of the solvents obtained under the conditions of the illustrative example shall not exhibit any interfering peaks.

5.1.3 Helium, purity 99,999 %; for degasification of solvents.

To avoid interferences, no plastic hoses shall be employed, preferably metal hoses are recommended.

5.1.4 Internal standard

If using DAD: indeno[1,2,3-*cd*]fluoranthene dissolved in toluene, mass concentration e.g. 3 µg/ml (see 6.2).
If using FLD: 6-methylchrysene.

5.1.5 Calibration standards

Cyclopenta[<i>c,d</i>]pyrene	CPP
Benz[<i>a</i>]anthracene	BaA
Chrysene	CHR
Benzo[<i>b</i>]fluoranthene	BbF
Benzo[<i>j</i>]fluoranthene	BjF
Benzo[<i>k</i>]fluoranthene	BkF
Benzo[<i>a</i>]pyrene	BaP
Benzo[<i>e</i>]pyrene	BeP
Indeno[1,2,3- <i>cd</i>]pyrene	INP
Dibenz[<i>a,h</i>]anthracene	DBaA
Dibenz[<i>a,c</i>]anthracene	DBaC
Benzo[<i>g,h,i</i>]perylene	BghiP
Anthanthrene	ANT
Coronene	COR
Dibenzo[<i>a,l</i>]pyrene	DBaIP
Dibenzo[<i>a,i</i>]pyrene	DBaIP
Dibenzo[<i>a,e</i>]pyrene	DBaeP
Dibenzo[<i>a,h</i>]pyrene	DBaHP
Benzo[<i>a</i>]chrysene (= picene)	BaC

5.2 Apparatus

5.2.1 Sampling device, consisting of the following parts (commercially available).

5.2.1.1 Sampling head, usually containing the filter.