



**International
Standard**

ISO 5409

**Stationary source emissions —
Chemical absorption method for
sampling and determining mercury
species in flue gas**

*Émissions de sources fixes — Échantillonnage et détermination
du mercure dans les gaz de combustion en utilisant la méthode
d'absorption chimique*

**First edition
2024-11**

Reference number
ISO 5409:2024(en)

Full document details: [ISO 5409-2024](#)

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Published in Switzerland

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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 document 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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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Stationary source emissions*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Mercury is a highly toxic environmental pollutant that bioaccumulates in the food chain and can have an impact on neurological health. Most of the anthropogenic mercury is emitted from stationary sources such as coal combustion plants, cement kilns, non-ferrous metal smelting operations and waste incineration facilities. The monitoring and control of mercury mass emissions from stationary sources is increasingly important for preventing global environmental pollution and health damage caused by mercury.

The transformation and fate of mercury in the atmosphere is defined by its chemical and physical forms. Additionally, the development and implementation of mercury control technologies is highly dependent on the mercury speciation at different parts of the industrial process.

Stationary source emissions — Chemical absorption method for sampling and determining mercury species in flue gas

1 Scope

This document describes a method for the sampling and determining mercury species in flue gas passing through ducts or chimney stacks. Mercury generally exists in gaseous elemental form, gaseous oxidized form and particulate-bound form. This method applies to the sampling and determination of gaseous elemental mercury (Hg^0), gaseous oxidized mercury (Hg^{2+}), particulate-bound mercury (Hg^P) and total mercury (Hg^T) in the flue gas from stationary sources.

This method is suitable at locations with high dust content, including locations upstream of the dust removal device with high particulate loadings in flue gas up to 120 g/m^3 .

This method is applicable to locations with sulfur dioxide (SO_2) concentration up to 0,25 % when the sampling volume is $0,5 \text{ m}^3$ (on a dry basis as corrected to standard conditions).

The limit of detection and the limit of determination depend on the instrumental limit of detection, reagent blank, field blank, measurement technique and volume of sampled gas. When the sampling volume is $1,5 \text{ m}^3$ (on a dry basis as corrected to standard conditions), the expected limits of detection for Hg^0 , Hg^P , Hg^{2+} and Hg^T are $0,103 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$, $0,011 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$, $0,035 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$ and $0,127 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$, respectively. The expected limits of determination for Hg^0 , Hg^P , Hg^{2+} and Hg^T are $0,229 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$, $0,025 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$, $0,082 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$ and $0,263 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$, respectively.

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 3696:1987, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 9096:2017, *Stationary source emissions — Manual determination of mass concentration of particulate matter*

ISO 10396, *Stationary source emissions — Sampling for the automated determination of gas emission concentrations for permanently-installed monitoring systems*

ISO 10780:1994, *Stationary source emissions — Measurement of velocity and volume flowrate of gas streams in ducts*

ISO 12141, *Stationary source emissions — Determination of mass concentration of particulate matter (dust) at low concentrations — Manual gravimetric method*

ISO 12846:2012, *Water quality — Determination of mercury — Method using atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) with and without enrichment*

ISO 17852:2006, *Water quality — Determination of mercury — Method using atomic fluorescence spectrometry*

ISO 20988:2007, *Air quality — Guidelines for estimating measurement uncertainty*

ISO 21741:2020, *Stationary source emissions — Sampling and determination of mercury compounds in flue gas using gold amalgamation trap*

3 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:

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

3.1

gaseous elemental mercury

mercury in its elemental form in flue gas

3.2

gaseous oxidized mercury

mercury in its mercurous or mercuric oxidation states in flue gas

3.3

gaseous mercury

mercury existing both as elemental and oxidized forms passing through a filter having at least 99,5 % collection efficiency for 0,3 µm diameter particles

3.4

particulate-bound mercury

mercury existing both as elemental or oxidized forms which are bound with particles collected by a filter having at least 99,5 % collection efficiency for 0,3 µm diameter particles

3.5

sampling train

complete setup including nozzle, probe, probe liner, filter, filter housing, impingers and connectors

3.6

total mercury

summation of *gaseous elemental mercury* (3.1), *gaseous oxidized mercury* (3.2) and *particulate-bound mercury* (3.4)

3.7

isokinetic sampling

sampling at a flowrate such that the velocity and direction of the gas entering the sampling nozzle is the same as that of the gas in the duct at the sampling point

4 Symbols and abbreviated terms

4.1 Symbols

B_{ws}	content of water vapour in the gas sample, normalized to standard temperature and pressure (STP)	g/m ³
$C_{S,Hg,a}$	concentration of mercury in the prepared sample solution aliquot digested from ash of container 1a	µg/ml
$C_{S,Hg,b}$	concentration of mercury in the prepared sample solution aliquot digested from ash of container 1b	µg/ml
$C_{RS,Hg}$	concentration of mercury in the probe rinse sample aliquot	µg/ml
$C_{KCl,Hg}$	concentration of mercury in the prepared sample solution aliquot in container 2	µg/ml
$C_{KCl,b}$	concentration of mercury in the KCl reagent blank aliquot	µg/ml

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$C_{\text{HNO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}_2, \text{Hg}}$	concentration of mercury in prepared sample solution aliquot in container 3	µg/ml
$C_{\text{HNO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}_2, \text{b}}$	concentration of mercury in $\text{HNO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ reagent blank aliquot	µg/ml
$C_{\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4-\text{KMnO}_4, \text{Hg}}$	concentration of mercury in prepared sample solution aliquot in container 4	µg/ml
$C_{\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4-\text{KMnO}_4, \text{b}}$	concentration of mercury in $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4-\text{KMnO}_4$ reagent blank aliquot	µg/ml
$F_{\text{D,a}}$	dilution factor obtained by dividing the total mass of ash of container 1a by the mass of ash analysed	g
$F_{\text{D,b}}$	dilution factor obtained by dividing the total mass of ash of container 1b by the mass of ash analysed	g
P_{atm}	atmospheric pressure	kPa
P_{av}	average pressure difference between the sample gas before gas meter and atmosphere	kPa
T_{av}	average temperature of the sample gas before gas meter	K
V_{m}	volume of dry flue gas sample	m ³
V_{f}	final gas meter reading at the end of sampling	m ³
V_{i}	initial gas meter reading at the beginning of sampling	m ³
V_{l}	volume of air drawn through the gas meter during any intermediate leak test	m ³
V_{d}	total volume of dry gas sampled at STP	m ³
$V_{\text{main,d}}$	volume of dry flue gas sample in the main stream, normalized to STP	m ³
$V_{\text{side,d}}$	volume of dry flue gas sample in the side stream, normalized to STP	m ³
$V_{\text{G,d}}$	volume of dry flue gas sample for gaseous mercury analysis, normalized to STP	m ³
$V_{\text{S,d}}$	volume of dry flue gas sample for Hg^{P} analysis, normalized to STP	m ³
$v_{\text{S,a}}$	volume of prepared sample solution digested from ash of container 1a	ml
$v_{\text{S,b}}$	volume of prepared sample solution digested from ash of container 1b	ml
v_{RS}	total volume of probe rinse sample	ml
v_{KCl}	total volume of solution in container 2 from which the sample aliquot was taken	ml
$v_{\text{KCl,b}}$	total volume of KCl reagent blank from which the sample aliquot was taken	ml
$v_{\text{HNO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}$	total volume of solution in container 3 from which the sample aliquot was taken	ml
$v_{\text{HNO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}_2, \text{b}}$	total volume of $\text{HNO}_3-\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ reagent blank from which the sample aliquot was taken	ml
$v_{\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4-\text{KMnO}_4}$	total volume of solution in container 4 from which the sample aliquot was taken	ml
$v_{\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4-\text{KMnO}_4, \text{b}}$	total volume of $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4-\text{KMnO}_4$ reagent blank from which the sample aliquot was taken	ml
W_{il}	mass of impinger after sampling	g
W_{i0}	mass of impinger before sampling	g

$\rho_{S,Hg,d}$	mass concentration of Hg^P in the gas stream on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg^{2+},d}$	mass concentration of Hg^{2+} captured by KCl impinger solution in the gas stream on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg^0,HNO_3-H_2O_2,d}$	mass concentration of Hg^0 captured by $HNO_3-H_2O_2$ impinger solution on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg^0,H_2SO_4-KMnO_4,d}$	mass concentration of Hg^0 captured by $H_2SO_4-KMnO_4$ impinger solution on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg^0,d}$	mass concentration of Hg^0 in the gas stream on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg,d}$	mass concentration of Hg^T in the gas stream on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg,dry,ref}$	mass concentration of mercury on a dry basis at STP and reference oxygen concentration	$\mu g/m^3$
$\rho_{Hg,dry}$	mass concentration of mercury measured during the sampling on a dry basis at STP	$\mu g/m^3$
$\varphi_{O,ref}$	volume fraction of the reference oxygen	%
$\varphi_{O,dry}$	volume fraction of the average oxygen on a dry basis measured during the sampling	%

4.2 Abbreviated terms

AAS	atomic absorption spectrometry
AFS	atomic fluorescence spectrometry
CVAAS	cold vapour atomic absorption spectrometry
CVAFS	cold vapour atomic fluorescence spectrometry
FEP	perfluoro(ethylene/propylene), tetrafluoro ethylene/hexafluoropropylene
FGD	flue gas desulfurization system
PFA	perfluoroalkoxy alkane
PTFE	polytetra fluoroethylene
QA/QC	quality assurance/quality control
SCR	selective catalytic reduction unit
STP	standard temperature and pressure, 273,15 K and 101,325 kPa

5 Principle

Sampling for particulate-bound mercury is performed isokinetically and sampling for gaseous mercury is performed either isokinetically or non-isokinetically. Sampling for particulate-bound mercury is performed isokinetically in accordance with ISO 9096 or ISO 12141. When the flow rates for the measurement of gaseous mercury and particulate-bound mercury are the same, a main stream sampling is applied. If the flow rate for the measurement of gaseous mercury is lower than that for particulate-bound mercury, a side stream sampling is applied.

Dust in the sampled gas stream is collected on a filter whereafter the gas stream is passed through a series of impingers in an ice bath. After sampling, the filter and absorber solution are prepared and analysed for mercury in laboratory. The recovery techniques include acid leaching and digestion. The analytical techniques include but are not limited to cold vapour atomic absorption spectrometry (CVAAS, see ISO 12846) or cold vapour atomic fluorescence spectrometry (CVAFS, see ISO 17852) with and without gold amalgamation.

When sampling at locations with particulate concentration higher than 100 mg/m^3 , such as upstream of the dust removal device, a cyclone separator is used before the filter, the cyclone separator and filter are placed in the heated filter box. The particles fall into the ash storage flask of cyclone separator under gravity to avoid the influence of too much ash on sampling, and ensure the sampling time and speed.

6 Reagents

6.1 Purity of reagents

Unless otherwise indicated, the reagents in [6.3](#) are required to be of guaranteed purity.

6.2 Purity of water

Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be conform with grade 1 specified in ISO 3696:1987 for all sample preparations and dilutions.

6.3 Reagents

6.3.1 Concentrated hydrochloric acid, $\omega(\text{HCl}) = 37 \%$, $\rho(\text{HCl}) = 1,19 \text{ g/ml}$.

6.3.2 Hydrogen peroxide, of a volume fraction of 30 %.

6.3.3 Concentrated nitric acid, $\omega(\text{HNO}_3) = 65 \%$, $\rho(\text{HNO}_3) = 1,4 \text{ g/ml}$.

6.3.4 Concentrated sulfuric acid, $\omega(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 98,3 \%$, $\rho(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 1,84 \text{ g/ml}$.

6.3.5 Potassium chloride solution, $c(\text{KCl}) = 1 \text{ mol/l}$.

Add 74,56 g of KCl slowly to a 1 000 ml volumetric flask containing approximately 500 ml of water with stirring, and then add water to make a volume of 1 000 ml with stirring. A new batch of solution should be made prior to each field test.

6.3.6 $\text{HNO}_3\text{-H}_2\text{O}_2$ solution, of a volume fraction of 5 % HNO_3 and of 10 % H_2O_2 .

Add 50 ml of concentrated HNO_3 ([6.3.3](#)) to a 1 000 ml volumetric flask containing approximately 500 ml of water slowly with stirring, and then add 333 ml of a volume fraction of 30 % of H_2O_2 ([6.3.2](#)) with stirring. Dilute with water to make a volume of 1 000 ml with stirring. A new batch of solution should be made prior to each field test.

6.3.7 $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4\text{-KMnO}_4$ solution, $\omega(\text{KMnO}_4) = 4 \%$, and a volume fraction of 10 % of H_2SO_4 .

Add slowly 100 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid ([6.3.4](#)) to a 1 000 ml volumetric flask containing approximately 600 ml of water while cooling and stirring, and then add water with stirring to make a volume of 1 000 ml. This solution is a volume fraction of 10 % of H_2SO_4 .

Mix slowly 40 g of KMnO_4 to a 1 000 ml volumetric flask containing approximately 800 ml of a volume fraction of 10 % of H_2SO_4 with stirring, and then add a volume fraction of 10 % of H_2SO_4 with stirring to make a volume of 1 000 ml.

6.3.8 Concentrated hydrofluoric acid, $\omega(\text{HF}) = 40 \%$, $\rho(\text{HF}) = 1,16 \text{ g/ml}$.

6.3.9 Rinse solution, $\omega(\text{HNO}_3) = 50 \text{ g/kg}$.

In accordance with ISO 21741, take 77 g of concentrated nitric acid (6.3.3) in a fluoroplastic bottle made of PTFE, PFA or FEP, and add water to make a total weight of 1 kg.

6.3.10 Potassium permanganate solution, of $\omega = 5 \%$.

Mix 25 g of KMnO_4 into water, dilute to 500 ml and stir vigorously.

6.3.11 Hydroxylamine hydrochloride solution, of $\omega = 10 \%$.

Mix 50 g of $\text{NH}_2\text{OH}\cdot\text{HCl}$ slowly to a 500 ml volumetric flask containing approximately 300 ml of water with stirring and then add water while stirring to make a volume of 500 ml.

6.3.12 Mercury stock solution, conforming with mercury standard solution as specified in ISO 12846 and ISO 17852.

6.3.13 Silica gel, of a self-indicating coarse grade.

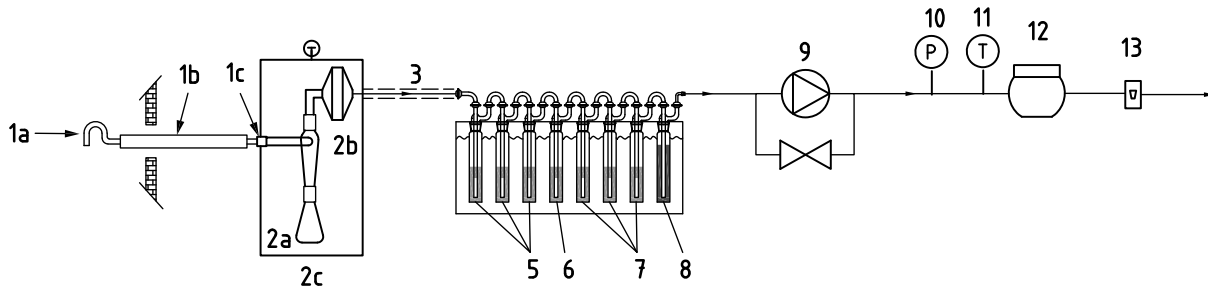
6.3.14 Boric acid (H_3BO_3), solid.

7 Apparatus

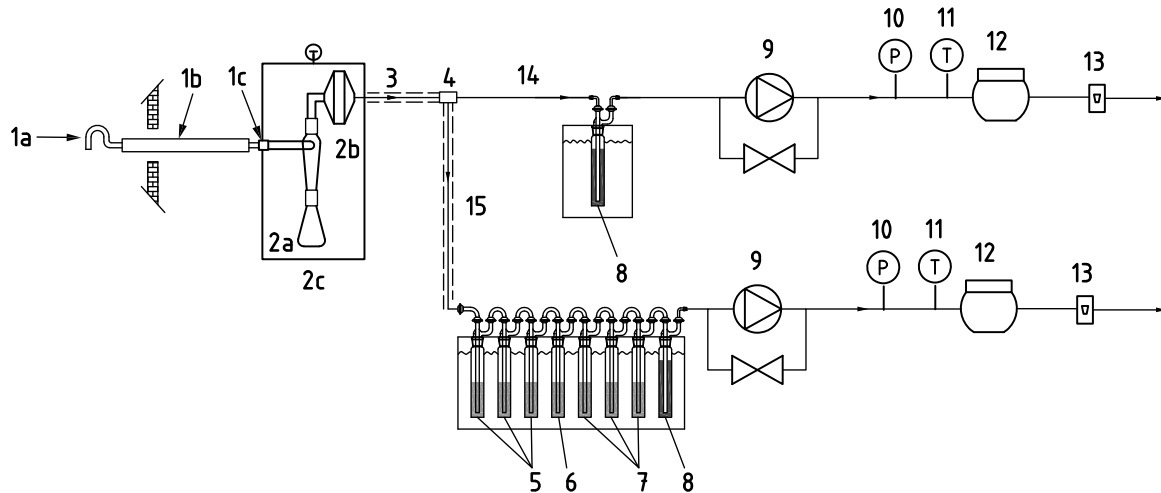
7.1 General

Two types of sampling systems, a main stream arrangement and a side stream arrangement, can be employed. Schematics of both systems are given in [Figure 1](#). In the main stream system all the sampled flue gas is passed through the filter and impinger solution, while in the side stream arrangement only a part of the sampled flue gas is passed through the impingers. The main stream sampling is used if the flow rate and total sampling volume for the measurements of gaseous mercury and particulate-bound mercury are the same. The side stream sampling is used when the flow rate or total sampling volume for the measurements of gaseous mercury and particulate-bound mercury is different. For example, to some measurement objects, such as non-ferrous metal smelting industry, the concentration of SO_2 and mercury is extremely high, and this can cause the sampling train to be over-loaded even with small amount of sampled flue gas.

The apparatus consists of a sampling probe including a nozzle and filter assembly that shall be heated if the flue gas temperature is lower than 393 K. The absorbing system consists of eight impingers immersed in an ice bath, a manometer, a pump, a gas meter and a rotameter. A thermometer and manometer shall be included in the sampling train to measure the temperature and pressure of the metered gas. A barometer shall be used to measure atmospheric pressure during the test in order that the volume of the gas sampled can be normalized to the STP condition.



a) Main stream sampling



b) Side stream sampling

Key

1a	nozzle	6	HNO ₃ -H ₂ O ₂ impinger
1b	probe	7	H ₂ SO ₄ -KMnO ₄ impingers
1c	probe liner	8	silica gel impinger
2a	cyclone separator (in case the particulate concentration is >100 mg/m ³)	9	pump
2b	filter and filter housing	10	manometer
2c	heated filter box	11	thermometer
3	heated transfer line	12	gas meter
4	T-piece	13	rotameter
5	KCl impingers	14	main stream
		15	side stream

Figure 1 — Schematic diagram of the sampling train**7.2 Nozzle**

The diameter of nozzle shall be chosen to be compatible with the required gas sampling volume flow rate. The choice of the nozzle shall be in accordance with ISO 12141 or ISO 9096.

The nozzle shall be capable of withstanding the temperature in the duct. It shall be resistant to chemical attack from various pollutants in the duct. Suitable materials for mercury sampling are silica glass and PTFE. Glass nozzles are required unless alternate nozzles are constructed of materials that are free from contamination and will not interact with the sample. Probe fittings constructed of PTFE, polypropylene, etc., are required instead of metal fittings to prevent contamination.

7.3 Probe liner

If the sampling train is out-of-stack filtration, the probe liner should be constructed of quartz or borosilicate glass. If an in-stack filtration sampling configuration is used, the probe liner may be constructed of borosilicate glass, quartz or PTFE depending on the flue gas temperature.

7.4 Probe

In order to reduce the adsorption of gaseous mercury by dust, and prevent water and acid condensation, the probe shall be equipped with a heating system. The heating system shall increase the probe temperature to higher than 393 K or at the temperature of flue gas, whichever is greater. In the case of sampling at locations with high temperature, such as above 533 K, the heating system shall be removed to prevent damage to the heating mantle. However, note that higher temperatures can lead to the thermal degradation of mercury compounds and the overestimation of Hg^0 concentrations.

7.5 Transfer line

The transfer line should be resistant to chemical attack from gases and aerosols present in the sample gas. Suitable materials for gaseous mercury sampling are silica glass, PTFE or PFA.

The transfer line should be cleaned thoroughly using rinse solution ([6.3.9](#)) and distilled water in sequence and dried thoroughly before sampling.

The transfer line shall have a heating system capable of maintaining exit gas temperature at $393 \text{ K} \pm 5 \text{ K}$ or at least 20 K above the dew point temperature, whichever is higher.

7.6 Filter

Consistent with ISO 21741, the filter shall be capable of withstanding prolonged exposures up to 40 K above the sample gas temperature to prevent a change in filter quality. The filter efficiency shall be better than 99,5 % on a test aerosol with a mean particle diameter of $0,3 \mu\text{m}$ at the maximum flow rate anticipated. The filter material shall be unreactive to SO_2 or sulfur trioxide (SO_3). A maximum mercury content in the original filter should be less than one tenth of the corresponding amounts which is calculated from the lower range of determination. Silica fibre filters without binders are recommended. The filter shall be dried, equilibrated and weighed in accordance with ISO 9096 or ISO 12141.

In the case of in-stack filtration, the filter is placed in the duct between the nozzle and the transfer line.

7.7 Cyclone separator

In the case of particulate concentration higher than 100 mg/m^3 , it is recommended to use a cyclone separator. Such as the sampling at upstream of dust removal device, a cyclone separator is added between the filter and the probe liner, as shown in [Figure 1](#). Suitable material for cyclone separator is quartz or borosilicate glass.

7.8 Filter housing

The filter housing shall have an airtight seal against leakage. If the flue gas temperature is below the dew point or the filter housing cannot be inserted in the duct, the filter housing shall be placed outside the duct (out-stack filtration) in accordance with ISO 9096 or ISO 12141. The filter housing shall be cleaned thoroughly using the rinse solution ([6.3.9](#)) and distilled water in sequence and dried thoroughly before sampling.

7.9 Filter heating box

The filter heating box should have a heating system.

In the case of out-stack filtration, the cyclone separator, filter and filter housing are placed in the filter heating box. In order to reduce the adsorption of gaseous mercury by dust on the filter, and to prevent water and acid condensation, the filter heating box should be maintained at a temperature of $393 \text{ K} \pm 5 \text{ K}$ or at the flue gas temperature, whichever is greater.