
**Soil quality — Determination of
selected organotin compounds — Gas-
chromatographic method**

*Qualité du sol — Dosage d'une sélection de composés
organostanniques — Méthode par chromatographie en phase gazeuse*



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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 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Chemical methods and soil characteristics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 23161:2009), which has been technically revised.

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

- note in [Clause 1](#) (converted to normal text) and [Table 2](#) have been moved to [Clause 4](#);
- former Note 4 in [Clause 4](#) has been changed to normal text and moved above Note 1;
- other pretreatment procedures allowed in [Clause 4](#) and in [7.1](#);
- former second sentence in [5.5.5](#) has been changed to Note;
- storage conditions has been changed to be consistent with ISO 5667-15;
- the Bibliography has been updated.

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.

Soil quality — Determination of selected organotin compounds — Gas-chromatographic method

WARNING — Persons using this document should be familiar with usual 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.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests, conducted in accordance with this document, be carried out by suitably qualified staff. It can be noted whether, and to what extent, particular problems will require the specification of additional boundary conditions.

1 Scope

This document specifies a gas-chromatographic method for the identification and quantification of organotin compounds (OTCs) in soils as specified in [Table 1](#).

This document is also applicable to samples from sediments, sludges and wastes (soil-like materials).

The working range depends on the detection technique used and the amount of sample taken for analysis.

The limit of quantification for each compound is about 10 µg/kg.

Table 1 — Organotin compounds

$R_nSn(4-n)^+$	R	<i>n</i>	Name	Acronym
Organotin cations^a				
BuSn ³⁺	Butyl	1	Monobutyltin cation	MBT
Bu ₂ Sn ²⁺	Butyl	2	Dibutyltin cation	DBT
Bu ₃ Sn ⁺	Butyl	3	Tributyltin cation	TBT
OctSn ³⁺	Octyl	1	Monooctyltin cation	MOT
Oct ₂ Sn ²⁺	Octyl	2	Diocetyltn cation	DOT
Ph ₃ Sn ⁺	Phenyl	3	Triphenyltin cation	TPhT
Cy ₃ Sn ⁺	Cyclohexyl	3	Tricyclohexyltin cation	TCyT
Peralkylated organotin				
Bu ₄ Sn	Butyl	4	Tetrabutyltin	TTBT
^a Organotin compounds are measured after derivatization.				

Organotin cations can only be determined in accordance with this document after derivatization. The anionic part bound to the organotin cation is mainly dependent on the chemical environment and is not determined using this method. The peralkylated organotin compounds behave in a completely different way from their parent compounds. Tetraalkylated organotin compounds which are already peralkylated, such as tetrabutyltin, are determined directly without derivatization.

The properties such as particle size distribution, water content and organic matter content of the solids to be analysed using this document vary widely. Sample pretreatment is designed adequately with respect to both the properties of the organotin compounds and the matrix to be analysed.

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

ISO 11465, *Soil quality — Determination of dry matter and water content on a mass basis — Gravimetric method*

ISO 16720, *Soil quality — Pretreatment of samples by freeze-drying for subsequent analysis*

ISO 22892, *Soil quality — Guidelines for the identification of target compounds by gas chromatography and mass spectrometry*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

3.1

organotin compound

substance containing 1 to 4 Sn-C bonds

Note 1 to entry: The number of Sn-C bonds is a measure for the degree of substitution.

3.2

organotin cation

part of the organotin *compound* (3.1) that contains all Sn-C bonds and is formally charged

3.3

organotin cation derivatives

non-dissociated tetrasubstituted organotin compounds which are produced by derivatization

3.4

solid

soil, sediment, sludge and waste (soil-like material)

4 Principle

For the ionic and the non-ionic organotin compounds (see [Table 1](#)), a different sample pretreatment and sample preparation are necessary. For the determination of organotin cations, laboratory samples are pretreated by freeze drying and grinding. This procedure enables to achieve homogeneity of the sample. The determination of non-ionic TTBT cannot be carried out with freeze-dried materials due to evaporation losses; thus, it shall be determined in the field-moist sample. Organotin cations can only be determined after derivatization, whereas TTBT is already peralkylated and can be determined without derivatization (see the flowchart in [Figure 1](#)).