Nuclear fuel technology - Sintered (U,Pu)O2 pellets - Guidance for ceramographic preparation for microstructure examination (ISO 22765:2016)



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ICS 27.120.30

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN ISO 22765

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

June 2019

ICS 27.120.30

English Version

Nuclear fuel technology - Sintered (U,Pu)O2 pellets - Guidance for ceramographic preparation for microstructure examination (ISO 22765:2016)

Technologie du combustible nucléaire - Pastilles (U,Pu)O2 frittées - Préconisations relatives à la préparation céramographique pour examen de la microstructure (ISO 22765:2016)

Kernbrennstofftechnologie - Gesinterte (U,Pu)O2-Pellets - Leitfaden für die keramographische Herstellung der Proben zur Untersuchung des Feingefüges (ISO 22765:2016)

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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European foreword

The text of ISO 22765:2016 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85 "Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 22765:2019 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 430 "Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 22765:2016 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 22765:2019 without any modification.

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 85, Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection, Subcommittee SC 5, Nuclear installations, processes and technologies.

Nuclear fuel technology — Sintered (U,Pu)O₂ pellets — Guidance for ceramographic preparation for microstructure examination

1 Scope

This document describes the ceramographic procedure used to prepare sintered $(U,Pu)O_2$ pellets for qualitative and quantitative examination of the pellet microstructure.

The examinations are performed before and after thermal treatment or chemical etching.

They allow

- observation of any cracks, intra- and intergranular pores or inclusions, and
- measurement of the grain size, porosity and plutonium homogeneity distribution.

The mean grain diameter is measured by one of the classic methods: counting (intercept method), comparison with standard grids or typical images, etc.^[2] The measurement of individual grain sizes requires uniform development of the microstructure over the entire specimen.

The plutonium cluster and pore distribution and localization are generally analysed by automatic image analysis systems. The plutonium distribution is usually revealed by chemical etching but alphaautoradiography can also be used. The first technique avoids the tendency for autoradiography to exaggerate the size of plutonium-rich clusters due to the distance the alpha particles travel away from the source.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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

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

4 Principle

The ceramographic preparation of $(U_1Pu)O_2$ pellets involves two steps:

- specimen polishing, after embedding or not the specimen in a specific resin;
- thermal treatment or chemical etching to reveal the specimen microstructure.