

Water quality - Lead-210 - Test method using liquid scintillation counting (ISO 13163:2013)

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

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|---|--|
| See Eesti standard EVS-EN ISO 13163:2019 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN ISO 13163:2019 ingliskeelset teksti. | This Estonian standard EVS-EN ISO 13163:2019 consists of the English text of the European standard EN ISO 13163:2019. |
| Standard on jõustunud sellekohase teate avaldamisega EVS Teatajas | This standard has been endorsed with a notification published in the official bulletin of the Estonian Centre for Standardisation. |
| Euroopa standardimisorganisatsioonid on teinud Euroopa standardi rahvuslikele liikmetele kättesaadavaks 05.06.2019. | Date of Availability of the European standard is 05.06.2019. |
| Standard on kättesaadav Eesti Standardikeskusest. | The standard is available from the Estonian Centre for Standardisation. |

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ICS 13.060.60, 17.240

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English Version

Water quality - Lead-210 - Test method using liquid
scintillation counting (ISO 13163:2013)

Qualité de l'eau - Plomb 210 - Méthode d'essai par
comptage des scintillations en milieu liquide (ISO
13163:2013)

Wasserbeschaffenheit - Blei-210 - Verfahren mit dem
Flüssigszintillationszähler (ISO 13163:2013)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 8 April 2001.

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European foreword

The text of ISO 13163:2013 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 13163:2019 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 2019.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 13163:2013 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 13163:2019 without any modification.

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Introduction

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

- natural radionuclides, including potassium-40, and those originating from the thorium and uranium decay series, particularly radium-226, radium-228, uranium-234, uranium-238, and lead-210, can be found in water for natural reasons (e.g. desorption from the soil and wash-off 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 the production and use of phosphate fertilizer);
- human-made radionuclides, such as transuranium elements (americium, plutonium, neptunium, curium), tritium, carbon-14, strontium-90, and gamma-emitting radionuclides, can also be found in natural waters as a result of authorized routine releases into the environment in small quantities of the effluent discharged from nuclear fuel cycle facilities. They are also released into the environment following their use in unsealed form for medical and industrial applications. They are also found in the water as a result of past fallout contamination resulting from the explosion in the atmosphere of nuclear devices and accidents such as those that occurred in Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Drinking water may thus contain radionuclides at activity concentrations which could present a risk to human health. In order to assess the quality of drinking water (including mineral waters and spring waters) with respect to its radionuclide content and to provide guidance on reducing health risks by taking measures to decrease radionuclide activity concentrations, water resources (groundwater, river, lake, sea, etc.) and drinking water are monitored for their radioactivity content as recommended by the World Health Organization [WHO] and required by some national authorities.

An International Standard on a test method for lead-210 activity concentrations in water samples is justified for test laboratories carrying out these measurements, required sometimes by national authorities, as laboratories may have to obtain a specific accreditation for radionuclide measurement in drinking water samples.

Lead-210 activity concentration can vary according to local geological and climatic characteristics and usually ranges from 2 mBq·l⁻¹ to 300 mBq·l⁻¹ (References [12][13]). The guidance level for lead-210 in drinking water, as recommended by WHO, is 100 mBq·l⁻¹ (Reference [14]).

NOTE The guidance level is the activity concentration with an intake of 2 l·day⁻¹ of drinking water for 1 year that results in an effective dose of 0,1 mSv·year⁻¹ for members of the public, an effective dose that represents a very low level of risk that is not expected to give rise to any detectable adverse health effect.

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

WARNING — Persons using ISO 13163 should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. ISO 13163 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 and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted according to ISO 13163 be carried out by suitably trained staff.

1 Scope

ISO 13163 specifies the determination of lead-210 (^{210}Pb) activity concentration in samples of all types of water using liquid scintillation counting (LSC). For raw and drinking water, the sample should be degassed in order to minimize the ingrowth of ^{210}Pb from radon-222 (^{222}Rn).

Using currently available liquid scintillation counters, this test method can measure the ^{210}Pb activity concentrations in the range of less than $20 \text{ mBq}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$ to $50 \text{ mBq}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$. These values can be achieved with a counting time between 180 min and 720 min for a sample volume from 0,5 l to 1,5 l.

Higher ^{210}Pb activity concentrations can be measured by either diluting the sample or using smaller sample aliquots or both.

It is the laboratory's responsibility to ensure the suitability of this test method for the water samples tested.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3, *Uncertainty of measurement — Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

ISO/IEC Guide 99, *International vocabulary of metrology — Basic and general concepts and associated terms (VIM)*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples*

ISO 11929, *Determination of the characteristic limits (decision threshold, detection limit and limits of the confidence interval) for measurements of ionizing radiation — Fundamentals and application*

ISO 80000-10, *Quantities and units — Part 10: Atomic and nuclear physics*