

Plastics - Determination of aerobic biodegradation of non-floating plastic materials in a seawater/sediment interface - Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide (ISO 19679:2020)

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

NATIONAL FOREWORD

See Eesti standard EVS-EN ISO 19679:2020 sisaldab Euroopa standardi EN ISO 19679:2020 ingliskeelset teksti.	This Estonian standard EVS-EN ISO 19679:2020 consists of the English text of the European standard EN ISO 19679:2020.
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English Version

Plastics - Determination of aerobic biodegradation of non-floating plastic materials in a seawater/sediment interface
- Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide (ISO 19679:2020)

Plastiques - Détermination de la biodégradation aérobie des matières plastiques non-flottantes dans une interface eau de mer/sédiments - Méthode par analyse du dioxyde de carbone libéré (ISO 19679:2020)

Kunststoffe - Bestimmung des aeroben Bioabbaus von nicht-schwimmenden Kunststoffmaterialien in einer Meerwasser/Sediment-Schnittstelle - Prüfverfahren mittels Analyse des freigesetzten Kohlenstoffdioxids (ISO 19679:2020)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 7 June 2020.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

European foreword

This document (EN ISO 19679:2020) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61 "Plastics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 249 "Plastics" the secretariat of which is held by NBN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2021.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 19679:2017.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 19679:2020 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 19679:2020 without any modification.

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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).

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Environmental aspects*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 249, *Plastics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 19679:2016), which has been technically revised.

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

- in [Annex A](#): Density of O₂ in air at 1 atm, 28 °C and a relative humidity of 100 % has been corrected and the subsequent calculations have been adapted accordingly.

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

Products made with biodegradable plastics are designed to be recovered by means of organic recycling in composting plants or in anaerobic digesters. The uncontrolled dispersion of biodegradable plastics in natural environments is not desirable. The biodegradability of products cannot be considered as an excuse to spread wastes that should be recovered and recycled. However, test methods to measure rate and level of biodegradation in natural environments (such as soil or the marine environment) are of interest in order to better characterize the behaviour of plastics in these very particular environments. As a matter of fact, some plastics are used in products that are applied in the sea (e.g. fishing gear) and sometimes they can get lost or put willingly in the marine environment. The characterization of biodegradable plastic materials can be enlarged by applying specific test methods that enable the quantitative assessment of biodegradation of plastics exposed to marine sediment and seawater. Plastic products are directly littered or arrive with fresh waters in the pelagic zone (free water). From there, and depending on density, tides, currents, and marine fouling plastics can sink to the sublittoral, and reach the seafloor surface. Many biodegradable plastics have a density higher than 1 and therefore tend to sink. The sediment passes from aerobic to anoxic and finally anaerobic conditions going from the surface (the interface with seawater) into deeper layers, displaying a very steep oxygen gradient.

Plastics — Determination of aerobic biodegradation of non-floating plastic materials in a seawater/sediment interface — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide

1 Scope

This document specifies a test method to determine the degree and rate of aerobic biodegradation of plastic materials when settled on marine sandy sediment at the interface between seawater and the seafloor, by measuring the evolved carbon dioxide (CO₂). This test method can also be applied to other solid materials.

This test method is a simulation under laboratory conditions of the habitat found in different seawater/sediment-areas in the sea, e.g. in a benthic zone where sunlight reaches the ocean floor (photic zone) that, in marine science, is called sublittoral zone

The determination of biodegradation of plastic materials and other solid materials buried in marine sediment is outside the scope of this document.

NOTE Measurement of aerobic biodegradation can also be obtained by monitoring the oxygen consumption, as described in ISO 18830.

The conditions described in this document do not always correspond to the optimum conditions for the maximum degree of biodegradation to occur.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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

theoretical amount of evolved carbon dioxide

ThCO₂

maximum theoretical amount of carbon dioxide evolved after completely oxidising a chemical compound, calculated from the molecular formula or from determination of *total organic carbon (TOC)* (3.2)

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed as mg of carbon dioxide evolved per mg or g of test compound.

3.2

total organic carbon

TOC

amount of carbon bound in an organic compound

Note 1 to entry: Total organic carbon is expressed as mg of carbon per 100 mg of the compound.