
**Water quality — Determination of 15
polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in
water by HPLC with fluorescence detection
after liquid-liquid extraction**

*Qualité de l'eau — Dosage de 15 hydrocarbures aromatiques polycycliques
(HAP) dans l'eau par HPLC avec détection par fluorescence après
extraction liquide-liquide*



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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

ISO 17993 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

Annexes A and B of this International Standard are for information only.

Introduction

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) occur in nearly all types of waters. These compounds are adsorbed on solids (sediments, suspended matter) as well as dissolved in the liquid phase.

Some PAH are known or suspected to cause cancer. The Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption set the maximum acceptable level for benzo(a)pyrene at 0,010 µg/l, and for the sum of four specified PAH [benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, benzo(ghi)perylene, indeno(1,2,3-cd)-pyrene] at 0,100 µg/l.

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WARNING — Some compounds being measured are presumed to be carcinogenic. Acetonitrile and hexane are toxic.

Persons using this International Standard should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This International Standard 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.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with fluorescence detection after liquid-liquid extraction for the determination of 15 selected PAH (see Table 1) in drinking and ground water in mass concentrations greater than 0,005 µg/l (for each single compound) and surface waters in mass concentrations above 0,01 µg/l.

This method is, with some modification, also suitable for the analysis of wastewater. This method may be applicable to other PAH, provided the method is validated for each case.

2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 5667-2, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 2: Guidance on sampling techniques*

ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Guidance on the preservation and handling of samples*

ISO 8466-1, *Water quality — Calibration and evaluation of analytical methods and estimation of performance characteristics — Part 1: Statistical evaluation of the linear calibration function*

3 Principle

The PAH present in the aqueous sample are extracted from the water sample with hexane. The extract is concentrated by evaporation and the residue taken up in a solvent appropriate for HPLC analysis.

If necessary, extracts of surface water or more contaminated water samples are cleaned by chromatography over silica prior to analysis.

PAH are separated by HPLC on a suitable stationary phase using gradient elution. Identification and quantification is performed by means of fluorescence detection with wavelength programming for both the excitation and the emission wavelength.

NOTE If only a limited number of PAH are to be determined, separation can also be performed under isocratic conditions.