
**Water quality — Determination of certain
explosives and related compounds —
Method using high-performance liquid
chromatography (HPLC) with UV
detection**

*Qualité de l'eau — Dosage de certains explosifs et de composés
apparentés — Méthode utilisant la chromatographie en phase liquide à
haute performance (CLHP) avec détection UV*



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Contents

Page

Foreword.....	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Principle.....	1
4 Interference	4
5 Reagents	4
6 Apparatus	5
7 Sampling.....	6
8 Procedure	6
9 Calibration	8
10 Evaluation.....	10
11 Expression of results	11
12 Test report	11
Annex A (informative) Examples of HPLC chromatograms.....	12
Annex B (informative) UV spectra of compounds from Table 1	19
Annex C (informative) Interference due to degradation of tetryl (CE) on exposure to daylight	22
Annex D (informative) Precision data.....	24

Foreword

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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 document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 22478 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

Introduction

Explosives and related compounds are frequently encountered in groundwater areas near to soil sites contaminated by armaments waste and may also be found in drinking water taken from nearby catchment areas. The range of pollutants will depend on the waste concerned, but will not, as a rule, include all the compounds listed in Table 1. Instead, samples of groundwater containing such pollutants may contain numerous other substances, such as nitro- and dinitrobenzoic acid, nitrophenols and aromatic amines. The compounds listed in Table 1 are frequently used for exploratory examinations of armaments waste.

When using this International Standard, it may be necessary in some cases to determine whether and to what extent particular problems will require the specification of additional conditions.

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

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted in accordance with this International Standard be carried out by suitably trained staff.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for determination of certain explosives, in particular nitrotoluenes, nitroamines and nitrate esters, and related compounds (by-products and degradation products), such as those listed in Table 1, in drinking water, groundwater and surface water.

Depending on the type of sample and the compound to be analysed, the lower limit of the working range for nitroaromatics and nitramines can be assumed to be between 0,1 µg/l and 0,5 µg/l (in some cases, the lower limit may be extended down to 0,05 µg/l). The lower limit of the working range for nitrate esters may be assumed to be higher (0,5 µg/l or more).

Similar compounds, in particular other nitroaromatics, may also be determined by this method, but its applicability will have to be checked in each individual case.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 5667-1, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes*

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 water samples*

3 Principle

The substances in the water sample are concentrated by solid-phase extraction using a polystyrene/divinylbenzene-based adsorbent. After elution with a solvent mixture, the eluate is concentrated and the substances are separated by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and analysed using a UV photodiode array (UV-PDA) detector.