INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 17858

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Water quality — Determination of dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls — Method using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry

Qualité de l'eau — Dosage des biphényls polychlorés de type dioxine — Méthode par chromatographie en phase gazeuse/spectrométrie de masse

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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 2.

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 17858 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

Introduction

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 minor additional conditions.

Water quality — Determination of dioxin-like polychlorinated biphenyls — Method using gas chromatography/mass spectrometry

WARNING — 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.

Attention is drawn to any relevant national safety regulations. The non-*ortho* and mono-*ortho* PCBs are co-planar and are among the most toxic of chemicals. All work with dioxin-like PCBs requires therefore the utmost care; the national safety measures which correspond to those for toxic substances shall be strictly adhered to.

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

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of dioxin-like tetra- to hepta-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in waters and wastewaters (containing less than 1 % suspended solids) using high-resolution gas chromatography/high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRGC/HRMS). The method is optimized for dioxin-like PCBs, but can include other co-planar compounds such as polychlorinated dioxins and furans (PCDDs/PCDFs) and polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs). This method can be used to determine dioxin-like PCBs in other matrices (e.g. biota, sediments, air); however, additional clean-up steps and techniques can be required for samples with high organic loadings.

This method is applicable to the twelve non- and mono-*ortho* PCBs designated by the World Health Organization, as well as to other PCBs and co-planar compounds.

The detection limits and quantification levels in this method are dependent on the level of interferences as well as instrumental limitations. The minimum levels (ML) in Table 2 are the levels at which the dioxin-like PCBs can typically be determined with no interferences present.

This method is “performance based”. The analyst is permitted to modify the method to overcome interferences or lower the cost of measurements, provided that all performance criteria in this method are met. The requirements for establishing method equivalency are given in 9.2.

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 and sampling techniques*

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