
**Paper, board and pulps —
Determination of pH of aqueous
extracts —**

**Part 1:
Cold extraction**

*Papier, carton et pâtes — Détermination du pH des extraits aqueux —
Partie 1: Extraction à froid*



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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 6588-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 6588-1:2005), which has been technically revised. The major difference compared with the previous edition is the addition of a paragraph in the scope to differentiate the results obtained with this standard from those obtained using ISO 29681 [5].

ISO 6588 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Paper, board and pulps — Determination of pH of aqueous extracts*:

- *Part 1: Cold extraction*
- *Part 2: Hot extraction*

Introduction

Kraft fibre is well known to contain ionisable groups that are fixed to or in the fibre wall. In order to fulfil the electro-neutrality, these groups are balanced by an equivalent number of positive charges, which can be either protons or various metal ions. Especially in pulp suspensions at low ionic strengths, this can give rise to a marked uneven distribution of mobile ions between the volume held by the fibre wall and the bulk suspension liquor. This means that the fibre acts as an ion exchanger. These ion-exchange phenomena can be modelled very well with the Donnan theory [2, 3].

If a relatively clean pulp fibre sample, for example bleached dried pulp, is diluted in deionised water, the result will be a pulp suspension with a very low ionic strength. In such a system, most of the cations present, including protons, will be concentrated in the water volume held by the fibre wall. If the pH is measured, it will be measured in the bulk suspension liquor. By adding salt to this kind of system, the ion exchange phenomena will be decreased, and the concentration of different cations will be the same in the water held by the fibre wall and in the bulk suspension liquor. Since the process waters always contain a certain amount of ions, such a salt addition will give a more realistic environment when measuring the pH of relatively clean pulp samples.

It is necessary to be aware of these effects when interpreting the measured pH-values of highly purified pulps.

Paper, board and pulps — Determination of pH of aqueous extracts —

Part 1: Cold extraction

1 Scope

This part of ISO 6588 specifies a method for the determination of the pH-value defined by the electrolytes extractable by cold water from a sample of paper, board or pulp.

This part of ISO 6588 is applicable to all types of paper, board and pulp.

As the quantity of extractable ionic material approaches zero, as in the case of highly purified pulps, the precision of the method becomes poor because of the difficulties encountered in making pH measurements on water containing little electrolytic material.

Since the extraction in this part of ISO 6588 is performed with distilled or deionised water, the pH-value measured will sometimes be different (e.g. for fully bleached pulp) from the pH-value measured under mill process conditions in which various types of process waters, e.g. chemically treated river water containing electrolytes, are used.

It is necessary to be aware that the results will not be the same when measuring pH according to this part of ISO 6588 and to ISO 29681. The difference can be significant especially when measuring pulps having a low ionic strength.

ISO 6588-2 differs from this part of ISO 6588 only as regards the extraction conditions. No general guidance can be given as to which of the two procedures (hot or cold) is best suited in a particular situation.

For cellulosic papers used for electrical purposes, the method used should be that given in IEC 60554-2 (see [4] in the Bibliography).

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 186, *Paper and board — Sampling to determine average quality*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 7213, *Pulps — Sampling for testing*

3 Principle

Extraction of a sample of 2 g for 1 h with 100 ml of cold water of high purity. Filtration of the extract and addition of a salt solution. Measurement of the pH-value of the extract at a temperature between 20 °C and 25 °C.