

# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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## **Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite —**

### **Part 3:**

Method of determining maceral group  
composition

*Méthodes d'analyse pétrographique des charbons bitumineux et de  
l'anthracite —*

*Partie 3: Détermination de la composition en groupes de macéraux*



Reference number  
ISO 7404-3:1994(E)

## 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.

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.

International Standard ISO 7404-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 27, *Solid mineral fuels*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 7404-3:1984), which has been technically revised.

ISO 7404 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite*:

- Part 1: *Vocabulary*
- Part 2: *Method of preparing coal samples*
- Part 3: *Method of determining maceral group composition*
- Part 4: *Method of determining microlithotype, carbominerite and minerite composition*
- Part 5: *Method of determining microscopically the reflectance of vitrinite*

Annex A of this part of ISO 7404 is for information only.

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## Introduction

Petrographic analyses have been recognized internationally as important in the context of the genesis, vertical and lateral variation, continuity, metamorphism and usage of coal. The International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP) has made recommendations concerning nomenclature and analytical methods and has published an extensive handbook describing in detail the characteristics of a wide range of coals. The text of this part of ISO 7404 agrees substantially with the text of the handbook and incorporates many useful comments made by members of the ICCP and by member bodies of ISO/TC 27, *Solid mineral fuels*.

Petrographic analyses of a single coal provide information about the rank, the maceral and microlithotype compositions and the distribution of minerals in the coal. The reflectance of vitrinite is a useful measure of coal rank and the distribution of the reflectance of vitrinite in a coal blend, together with a maceral group analysis, can provide information about some important chemical and technological properties of the blend.

ISO 7404 is concerned with the methods of petrographic analysis currently employed in characterizing bituminous coal and anthracite in the context of their technological use. It establishes a system for petrographic analysis and comprises five parts, as follows:

Part 1: Vocabulary.

Part 2: Method of preparing coal samples.

Part 3: Method of determining maceral group composition.

Part 4: Method of determining microlithotype, carbominerite and minerite composition.

Part 5: Method of determining microscopically the reflectance of vitrinite.

For information on the nomenclature and analysis of brown coals and lignites, reference should be made to the *International Handbook of Coal Petrography*<sup>(1)</sup> published by the ICCP.

Macerals are microscopically recognizable organic constituents of coal, and can be grouped together into three maceral groups: vitrinite, liptinite and inertinite.

Maceral groups and their subdivisions are listed in ISO 7404-1. The properties of a given coal are determined by the proportions and associations of the macerals and minerals present and by the rank of the coal. The method of determining maceral group composition described in this part of ISO 7404 applies only to determinations made in reflected white light. Further analysis by other techniques, such as fluorescence microscopy, can be used to assist in maceral identification.

In addition to the macerals, it is possible to identify certain minerals in coal and these may either be determined as separate categories or be ignored. As some of the minerals cannot be satisfactorily identified under the microscope, an estimate of the total mineral matter content may be obtained from the ash.

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# Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite —

## Part 3:

## Method of determining maceral group composition

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 7404 specifies a method of determining the proportions of the maceral groups (and the minerals if desired) in coals. It is concerned only with determinations made on polished particulate blocks using reflected white light. If needed, the proportions of the individual macerals may be determined by the same procedure. It is not concerned with the determination of the proportions of naturally occurring maceral associations (i.e. microlithotypes, see ISO 7404-4).

### 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 7404. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 7404 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO

maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 7404-1:1994, *Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite — Part 1: Vocabulary*.

ISO 7404-2:1985, *Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite — Part 2: Method of preparing coal samples*.

ISO 7404-4:1988, *Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite — Part 4: Method of determining microlithotype, carbominerite and minerite composition*.

ISO 7404-5:1994, *Methods for the petrographic analysis of bituminous coal and anthracite — Part 5: Method of determining microscopically the reflectance of vitrinite*.

### 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this part of ISO 7404, the definitions given in ISO 7404-1 apply.