
**Water quality — Determination
of selected highly volatile organic
compounds in water — Method
using gas chromatography and mass
spectrometry by static headspace
technique (HS-GC-MS)**

*Qualité de l'eau — Dosage de composés organiques hautement
volatils sélectionnés dans l'eau — Méthode par chromatographie
en phase gazeuse par la technique de l'espace de tête statique et
spectrométrie de masse (HS-GC-MS)*



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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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

Introduction

Various methods are available for the determination of highly volatile organic compounds in water. This document specifies a gas chromatographic method with mass spectrometric detection (GC-MS) for the determination of volatile organic compounds using the static headspace technique (HS).

Water quality — Determination of selected highly volatile organic compounds in water — Method using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry by static headspace technique (HS-GC-MS)

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

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

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of selected volatile organic compounds in water (see [Table 1](#)). This comprises among others volatile halogenated hydrocarbons as well as gasoline components (BTXE, TAME, MTBE and ETBE).

The method is applicable to the determination of volatile organic compounds (see [Table 1](#)) in drinking water, groundwater, surface water and treated waste water in mass concentrations >0,1 µg/l. The lower application range depends on the individual compound, the amount of the blank value and the matrix.

The applicability of the method to further volatile organic compounds not indicated in [Table 1](#) is not excluded, but this is checked in individual cases.

Table 1 — Volatile organic compounds determinable by this method

Name (other name)	Molecular formula	CAS-RN ^a	EC-Number ^b	Molar mass g/mol
allyl chloride ^c (3-chloropropene)	C ₃ H ₅ Cl	107-05-1	203-457-6	76,53
benzene	C ₆ H ₆	71-43-2	200-753-7	78,11
biphenyl	C ₁₂ H ₁₀	92-52-4	202-163-5	154,21
bromodichloromethane	CHBrCl ₂	75-27-4	200-856-7	163,83
chlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₅ Cl	108-90-7	203-628-5	112,56
2-chloro-1,3-butadiene (chloroprene)	C ₄ H ₅ Cl	126-99-8	204-818-0	88,54
2-chlorotoluene	C ₇ H ₇ Cl	95-49-8	202-424-3	126,58
3-chlorotoluene	C ₇ H ₇ Cl	108-41-8	203-580-5	126,58
4-chlorotoluene	C ₇ H ₇ Cl	106-43-4	203-397-0	126,58
dibromochloromethane	CHBr ₂ Cl	124-48-1	204-704-0	208,28
1,2-dibromoethane	C ₂ H ₄ Br ₂	106-93-4	203-444-5	187,86
1,2-dichlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₄ Cl ₂	95-50-1	202-425-9	147,00
1,3-dichlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₄ Cl ₂	541-73-1	208-792-1	147,00

^a CAS-RN: Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number.

^b EC-Number: European Inventory of Existing Commercial Substances (EINECS) or European List of Notified Chemical Substances (ELINCS).

^c Compounds do not have long-term stability.

^d Compounds can coelute.

^e Source: Hazardous Substance Data Base University Hamburg (Germany).

Table 1 (continued)

Name (other name)	Molecular formula	CAS-RN ^a	EC-Number ^b	Molar mass g/mol
1,4-dichlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₄ Cl ₂	106-46-7	203-400-5	147,00
dichlorodiisopropyl ether	C ₆ H ₁₂ Cl ₂ O	108-60-1	203-598-3	171,06
1,1-dichloroethane	C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂	75-34-3	200-863-5	98,96
1,2-dichloroethane	C ₂ H ₄ Cl ₂	107-06-2	203-458-1	98,96
1,1-dichloroethene	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂	75-35-4	200-864-0	96,94
<i>cis</i> -1,2-dichloroethene	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂	156-59-2	205-859-7	96,94
<i>trans</i> -1,2-dichloroethene	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₂	156-60-5	205-860-2	96,94
dichloromethane	CH ₂ Cl ₂	75-09-2	200-838-9	84,93
1,2-dichloropropane	C ₃ H ₆ Cl ₂	78-87-5	201-152-2	112,99
<i>cis</i> -1,3-dichloropropene	C ₃ H ₄ Cl ₂	10061-01-5	233-195-8	110,97
<i>trans</i> -1,3-dichloropropene	C ₃ H ₄ Cl ₂	10061-02-6	602-030-00-5 ^e	110,97
2,3-dichloropropene	C ₃ H ₄ Cl ₂	78-88-6	201-153-8	110,97
1,1-dimethylpropyl-methyl ether, <i>tert</i> -amyl methyl ether (TAME)	C ₆ H ₁₄ O	994-05-8	213-611-4	102,17
ethyl benzene	C ₈ H ₁₀	100-41-4	202-849-4	106,17
ethyl <i>tert</i> -butyl ether (ETBE)	C ₆ H ₁₄ O	637-92-3	211-309-7	102,17
hexachlorobutadiene	C ₄ Cl ₆	87-68-3	201-765-5	260,76
hexachloroethane	C ₂ Cl ₆	67-72-1	200-666-4	236,74
isopropylbenzene (cumene)	C ₉ H ₁₂	98-82-8	202-704-5	120,19
methyl <i>tert</i> -butyl ether (MTBE)	C ₅ H ₁₂ O	1634-04-4	216-653-1	88,15
naphthalene	C ₁₀ H ₈	91-20-3	202-049-5	128,17
<i>n</i> -propylbenzene	C ₉ H ₁₂	103-65-1	203-132-9	120,19
1,1,1,2-tetrachloroethane	C ₂ H ₂ Cl ₄	630-20-6	211-135-1	167,85
tetrachloroethene	C ₂ Cl ₄	127-18-4	204-825-9	165,84
tetrachloromethane (carbon tetrachloride)	CCl ₄	56-23-5	200-262-8	153,82
toluene	C ₇ H ₈	108-88-3	203-625-9	92,14
tribromomethane (bromoform)	CHBr ₃	75-25-2	200-854-6	252,73
1,2,3-trichlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₃	87-61-6	201-757-1	181,45
1,2,4-trichlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₃	120-82-1	204-428-0	181,45
1,3,5-trichlorobenzene	C ₆ H ₃ Cl ₃	108-70-3	203-608-6	181,45
1,1,1-trichloroethane	C ₂ H ₃ Cl ₃	71-55-6	200-756-3	133,40
1,1,2-trichloroethane	C ₂ H ₃ Cl ₃	79-00-5	201-166-9	133,40
trichloroethene	C ₂ HCl ₃	79-01-6	201-167-4	131,39
trichloromethane (chloroform)	CHCl ₃	67-66-3	200-663-8	119,38
1,1,2-trichlorotrifluoroethane	C ₂ Cl ₃ F ₃	76-13-1	200-936-1	187,38
1,2,4-trimethylbenzene (pseudocumene)	C ₉ H ₁₂	95-63-6	202-436-9	120,19

^a CAS-RN: Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number.

^b EC-Number: European Inventory of Existing Commercial Substances (EINECS) or European List of Notified Chemical Substances (ELINCS).

^c Compounds do not have long-term stability.

^d Compounds can coelute.

^e Source: Hazardous Substance Data Base University Hamburg (Germany).

Table 1 (continued)

Name (other name)	Molecular formula	CAS-RN ^a	EC-Number ^b	Molar mass g/mol
1,3,5-trimethylbenzene (mesitylene)	C ₉ H ₁₂	108-67-8	203-604-4	120,19
vinyl benzene (styrene)	C ₈ H ₈	100-42-5	202-851-5	104,15
vinyl chloride (chloroethene) ^c	C ₂ H ₃ Cl	75-01-4	200-831-0	62,49
<i>o</i> -xylene	C ₈ H ₁₀	95-47-6	202-422-2	106,17
<i>m</i> -xylened	C ₈ H ₁₀	108-38-3	203-576-3	106,17
<i>p</i> -xylened	C ₈ H ₁₀	106-42-3	203-396-5	106,17
^a CAS-RN: Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number. ^b EC-Number: European Inventory of Existing Commercial Substances (EINECS) or European List of Notified Chemical Substances (ELINCS). ^c Compounds do not have long-term stability. ^d Compounds can coelute. ^e Source: Hazardous Substance Data Base University Hamburg (Germany).				

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples*

ISO 5667-4, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 4: Guidance on sampling from lakes, natural and man-made*

ISO 5667-5, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 5: Guidance on sampling of drinking water from treatment works and piped distribution systems*

ISO 5667-6, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 6: Guidance on sampling of rivers and streams*

ISO 5667-10, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 10: Guidance on sampling of waste waters*

ISO 5667-11, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 11: Guidance on sampling of groundwaters*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

4 Principle

An exact volume of an unfiltered water sample is sealed gastight in a headspace vial and heated. After an equilibrium has become established between the volatile organic compounds dissolved in the water and those located in the gas phase above the water level, an exact gas volume is taken from the gas phase and determined by gas chromatography with mass spectrometric detection.