



**International  
Standard**

**ISO 12439**

**Mixing water for concrete**

*Eau de gâchage pour béton*

**Second edition  
2025-03**

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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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 71, *Concrete, reinforced concrete and pre-stressed concrete*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Concrete production and execution of concrete structures*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12439:2010), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- addition of some new normative references;
- addition of the definition of water types;
- inclusion of requirements regarding radioactive testing ([subclause 4.3.4](#)).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The quality of the mixing water for production of concrete can influence the setting time, the strength development of concrete and the protection of the reinforcement against corrosion.

When assessing the suitability of water of unknown quality for the production of concrete, both the composition of the water and the application of the concrete being produced must be considered.

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# Mixing water for concrete

## 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the treatment of water that is suitable for making concrete in accordance with ISO 22965 (all parts) and describes methods for assessing its suitability.

## 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 1920-3, *Testing of concrete — Part 3: Making and curing test specimens*

ISO 1920-4, *Testing of concrete — Part 4: Strength of hardened concrete*

ISO 23696-1, *Water quality — Determination of nitrate in water using small-scale sealed tubes — Part 1: Dimethylphenol colour reaction*

ISO 6878, *Water quality — Determination of phosphorus — Ammonium molybdate spectrometric method*

ISO 13163, *Water quality — Lead-210 — Test method using liquid scintillation counting*

ISO 29581-1, *Cement — Test methods — Part 1: Analysis by wet chemistry*

ISO 9597, *Cement — Test methods — Determination of setting time and soundness*

ISO 22965-2, *Concrete — Part 2: Specification of constituent materials, production of concrete and compliance of concrete*

ISO 10523, *Water quality — Determination of pH*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

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

### 3.1

#### **potable water**

water intended for human consumption

Note 1 to entry: This water is generally considered as suitable for use in concrete. The water shall not be further tested, if already tested and certified by concerned authorities. Otherwise, the water shall be tested and shall conform to the requirements specified in [4.3](#).