



Institut luxembourgeois de la normalisation
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ILNAS-EN 12916:2024

Petroleum products - Determination of aromatic hydrocarbon types in middle distillates - High performance liquid chromatography method with

Produits pétroliers - Détermination des
familles d'hydrocarbures aromatiques
dans les distillats moyens - Méthode par
chromatographie liquide à haute

Mineralölerzeugnisse - Bestimmung von
aromatischen Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen
in Mitteldestillaten -
Hochleistungsflüssigkeitschromatograph

03/2024



National Foreword

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EUROPÄISCHE NORM

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English Version

**Petroleum products - Determination of aromatic
hydrocarbon types in middle distillates - High
performance liquid chromatography method with
refractive index detection**

Produits pétroliers - Détermination des familles
d'hydrocarbures aromatiques dans les distillats
moyens - Méthode par chromatographie liquide à
haute performance avec détection par réfractométrie
différentielle

Mineralölerzeugnisse - Bestimmung von aromatischen
Kohlenwasserstoffgruppen in Mitteldestillaten -
Hochleistungsflüssigkeitschromatographie-Verfahren
mit Brechungsindex-Detektion

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 14 December 2023.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (EN 12916:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 19 “Gaseous and liquid fuels, lubricants and related products of petroleum, synthetic and biological origin”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2024.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 12916:2019+A1:2022.

Major change compared to EN 12916:2019+A1:2022 is the introduction of an Annex C with instructions on determination of tri+-aromatics and additional sampling requirements. This should improve lab precision when testing paraffinic diesel products. Next, the practical instructions for these type of samples in Annex B have been improved and exemplary chromatograms have been introduced. The instructions on storage precautions after sampling have been restricted to paraffinic diesel products only.

The addition of a calibration procedure with reference material ensures better results for all products. Furthermore, a study executed in 2021 has delivered confirmation of the published precision for PAH and DAH for concentration range from (6 – 10) % (*m/m*).

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

1 Scope

This document specifies a test method for the determination of the content of mono-aromatic, di-aromatic and tri+-aromatic hydrocarbons in diesel fuels, paraffinic diesel fuels and petroleum distillates.

This document specifies two procedures, A and B.

Procedure A is applicable to diesel fuels that may contain fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) up to 30 % (V/V) (as in [1], [2] or [3]) and petroleum distillates in the boiling range from 150 °C to 400 °C (as in [4]).

Procedure B is applicable to paraffinic diesel fuels with up to 7 % (V/V) FAME. This procedure does not contain a dilution of the sample in order to determine the low levels of aromatic components in these fuels.

The polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons content is calculated from the sum of di-aromatic and tri+-aromatic hydrocarbons and the total content of aromatic compounds is calculated from the sum of the individual aromatic hydrocarbon types.

Compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen and oxygen can interfere in the determination; mono-alkenes do not interfere, but conjugated di-alkenes and poly-alkenes, if present, can do so. The measurement ranges that apply to this method are given in Table 2 and Table 3.

NOTE 1 For the purpose of this document, the terms “% (m/m)” and “% (V/V)” are used to represent the mass fraction, μ , and the volume fraction, φ , of a material respectively.

NOTE 2 By convention, the aromatic hydrocarbon types are defined on the basis of their elution characteristics from the specified liquid chromatography column relative to model aromatic compounds. Their quantification is performed using an external calibration with a single aromatic compound for each of them, which can be representative of the aromatics present in the sample. Alternative techniques and test methods can classify and quantify individual aromatic hydrocarbon types differently.

NOTE 3 Backflush is part of laboratory-internal maintenance.

WARNING — The use of this document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of users of this document to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and health of personnel prior to application of the standard, and fulfil statutory and regulatory requirements for this purpose.

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.

EN 14214, *Liquid petroleum products — Fatty acid methyl esters (FAME) for use in diesel engines and heating applications — Requirements and test methods*

EN ISO 1042, *Laboratory glassware — One-mark volumetric flasks (ISO 1042)*

EN ISO 3170, *Petroleum liquids — Manual sampling (ISO 3170)*

EN ISO 3171, *Petroleum liquids — Automatic pipeline sampling (ISO 3171)*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

3.1

non-aromatic hydrocarbons

compounds having a shorter retention time on the specified polar column than the majority of mono-aromatic hydrocarbons

3.2

mono-aromatic hydrocarbons

MAH

compounds having a longer retention time on the specified polar column than the majority of non-aromatic hydrocarbons, but a shorter retention time than the majority of di-aromatic hydrocarbons

3.3

di-aromatic hydrocarbons

DAH

compounds having a longer retention time on the specified polar column than the majority of mono-aromatic hydrocarbons, but a shorter retention time than the majority of tri+-aromatic hydrocarbons

3.4

tri+-aromatic hydrocarbons

T+AH

compounds having a longer retention time on the specified polar column than the majority of di-aromatic hydrocarbons including chrysene

3.5

polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

POLY-AH

sum of the di-aromatic hydrocarbons and tri+-aromatic hydrocarbons

3.6

total aromatic hydrocarbons

sum of the mono-aromatic hydrocarbons, di-aromatic hydrocarbons and tri+-aromatic hydrocarbons

Note 1 to entry: Published and unpublished data indicate that the major constituents for each hydrocarbon type include:

- a) non-aromatic hydrocarbons: cyclic and acyclic alkanes (paraffins and naphthenes), mono-alkenes (if present);
- b) MAH: benzenes, tetralins, indanes and higher naphthenobenzenes (e.g. octahydrophenanthrenes), thiophenes, styrenes, conjugated polyalkenes;
- c) DAH: naphthalenes, biphenyls, indenenes, fluorenes, acenaphthenes, benzothiophenes and dibenzothiophenes;
- d) T+AH: phenanthrenes, pyrenes, fluoranthenes, chysenes, triphenylenes, benzanthracenes.

3.7

fatty acid methyl esters

FAME

mixture of fatty acid methyl esters derived from vegetable oil or animal fats and complying to the specification defined in EN 14214

4 Principle

A known mass of sample is taken and a fixed volume of this sample is injected into a high performance liquid chromatograph fitted with a polar column. Diesel fuels with a concentration of FAME up to 30 % (V/V) and petroleum distillates need to be diluted with heptane (Procedure A). Paraffinic diesel fuels are injected neat (Procedure B).

This column has little affinity for non-aromatic hydrocarbons, while exhibiting a strong selectivity for aromatic hydrocarbons. As a result of this selectivity, the aromatic hydrocarbons are separated from the non-aromatic hydrocarbons and into distinct bands according to their ring structure, i.e. MAH, DAH and T+AH compounds.

The column is connected to a refractive index detector which detects the components as they elute from the column. The electronic signal from the detector is continually monitored by a data processor. The amplitudes of the signals from the aromatics in the sample are compared with those obtained from calibration standards in order to calculate the mass fraction of MAH, DAH and T+AH in the sample. The sum of the DAH and T+AH mass fractions is reported as the mass fraction of POLY-AH, and the sum of the MAH, DAH and T+AH mass fractions is reported as the mass fraction of total aromatic hydrocarbons.

When following Procedure A, the column may be backflushed after the aromatics have eluted from the column to allow any remaining components such as FAME to elute in a backflush peak. This will allow for a better cleaning of the column but care should be taken as it can affect the lifetime of the column.

5 Reagents and materials

WARNING — Aromatic compounds can be volatile and flammable, their vapours can form explosive mixtures with the air, and they can cause acute or chronic harm when inhaled or in case of contact with the skin. In addition, they can be water polluting.

5.1 General

The highest purity reagents and materials available should be used; those required to be of high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) grade are commercially available from major suppliers.

5.2 Cyclohexane, of 99 % (*m/m*) minimum purity (CAS registry number 110-82-7).

NOTE Cyclohexane can contain benzene as an impurity.

5.3 Heptane, HPLC analytical grade, as the mobile phase (CAS registry number 142-82-5).

Batch to batch variation of the solvent water content, viscosity, refractive index, and purity can cause unpredictable column behaviour. Drying (for example, by standing over activated molecular sieve type 5A) and filtering the mobile phase can help reducing the effect of trace impurities present in the solvent.

It is recommended practice to de-gas the mobile phase before use; this can be done conveniently online or off-line by helium sparging, vacuum degassing or ultrasonic agitation. A failure to de-gas the mobile phase can lead to negative peaks.

5.4 1-Phenyldodecane, of 98 % (*m/m*) minimum purity (CAS registry number 123-01-3).