INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 15680

First edition
2003-11-01

Water quality — Gas-chromatographic determination of a number of monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, naphthalene and several chlorinated compounds using purge-and-trap and thermal desorption

Qualité de l'eau — Dosage par chromatographie en phase gazeuse d'un certain nombre d'hydrocarbures aromatiques monocycliques, du naphtalène et de divers composés chlorés par dégazage, piégeage et désorption thermique

Reference number
ISO 15680:2003(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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 15680 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

Water quality — Gas-chromatographic determination of a number of monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, naphthalene and several chlorinated compounds using purge-and-trap and thermal desorption

WARNING — Persons using this International Standard should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This International Standard 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 and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a general method for the determination of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in water by purge-and-trap isolation and gas chromatography (GC). Annexes A, B and C provide examples of analytes that can be determined using this International Standard. They range from difluorodichloromethane (R-12) up to trichlorobenzene, including all non-polar organic compounds of intermediate volatility.

Detection is preferably carried out by mass spectrometry in the electron impact mode (EI), but other detectors may be applied as well.

The limit of detection largely depends on the detector in use and the operational parameters. Typically detection limits as low as 10 ng/l[1)] can be achieved. The working range typically is up to 100 µg/l.

This International Standard is applicable to drinking water, ground water, surface water, seawater and to (diluted) waste water.

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

ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Guidance on the preservation and handling of water samples*

ISO 8466-1, *Water quality — Calibration and evaluation of analytical methods and estimation of performance characteristics — Part 1: Statistical evaluation of the linear calibration function*

1) The value given is an indication of the limit of detection. It is calculated as 3 times the standard deviation of a series of measurements of 10 replicate samples under conditions of repeatability.

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
volatile organic compound
VOC
organic compound, generally non-polar, with boiling point between approximately –30 °C and 220 °C

3.2
target compound
selected component whose presence or absence is determined

NOTE This definition can also apply to a derivative of the original compound which is formed during an intentional derivatization procedure.

3.3
standard compound
target compound with the highest possible purity that can be used as a reference during the analysis and free of impurities having any influence on its mass spectrum

3.4
retention-time standard
compound that is added to the sample (or to the sample extract) and to the **external standard solution** (3.6) and whose retention time is used to calculate the relative retention times of the target compounds

NOTE The retention-time standard may be identical to the internal standard(s).

3.5
relative retention time
ratio between the retention time of the target compound and the retention time of the retention-time standard

3.6
external standard solution
solution of a known concentration of the target compounds

3.7
lowest concentration for identification
lowest concentration of the target compound which, if present in the sample, still can be identified using the identification criterion that the selected diagnostic ion with the lowest intensity is still present in the mass spectrum with a signal-to-noise ratio higher than 3:1

NOTE This concentration strongly depends on the sensitivity of the instrument and on the performance characteristics of the analytical method.

3.8
diagnostic ion
ion selected from the mass spectrum of the target compound with the highest possible specificity

NOTE For the selection of diagnostic ions, see D.5.

4 Principle

A fixed volume of sample is purged with a fixed volume of an inert gas to strip out the volatile components which are subsequently trapped. This trapping can be either:

a) on a packed adsorbent trap (preferably combined with or followed by a cryofocusing system), or

b) directly on a capillary cold-trap.