
Blato, obdelani biološki odpadki in tla - Določevanje elementov z masno spektrometrijo z induktivno sklopljeno plazmo (ICP/MS)

Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of elements using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)

Schlamm, behandelter Bioabfall und Boden - Bestimmung von Elementen mittels Massenspektrometrie mit induktiv gekoppeltem Plasma (ICP-MS)

Boues, bio-déchets traités et sols - Détermination des éléments en traces par spectrométrie de masse avec plasma induit par haute fréquence (ICP-MS)

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: CEN/TS 16171:2012

ICS:

13.030.20	Tekoči odpadki. Blato	Liquid wastes. Sludge
13.080.10	Kemijske značilnosti tal	Chemical characteristics of soils

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION
SPÉCIFICATION TECHNIQUE
TECHNISCHE SPEZIFIKATION

CEN/TS 16171

November 2012

ICS 13.030.01; 13.080.10

English Version

**Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of elements
using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)**

Boues, bio-déchets traités et sols - Détermination des
éléments en traces par spectrométrie de masse avec
plasma induit par haute fréquence (ICP-MS)

Schlamm, behandelter Bioabfall und Boden - Bestimmung
von Elementen mittels Massenspektrometrie mit induktiv
gekoppeltem Plasma (ICP-MS)

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 16 July 2012 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16171:2012) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 400 "Project Committee - Horizontal standards in the fields of sludge, biowaste and soil", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

The preparation of this document by CEN is based on a mandate by the European Commission (Mandate M/330), which assigned the development of standards on sampling and analytical methods for hygienic and biological parameters as well as inorganic and organic determinants, aiming to make these standards applicable to sludge, treated biowaste and soil as far as this is technically feasible.

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Introduction

This Technical Specification is applicable for several types of matrices as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1 — Matrices for which this Technical Specification is applicable

Matrix	Materials tested
Sludge	Municipal sludge
Biowaste	Compost
Soil	Sludge amended soils

WARNING — Persons using this Technical Specification should be familiar with usual laboratory practice. This Technical Specification 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.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted according to this Technical Specification be carried out by suitably trained staff.

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1 Scope

This Technical Specification specifies a method for the determination of the following elements in *aqua regia* or nitric acid digests of sludge, treated biowaste and soil:

Aluminium (Al), antimony (Sb), arsenic (As), barium (Ba), beryllium (Be), bismuth (Bi), boron (B), cadmium (Cd), calcium (Ca), cerium (Ce), cesium (Cs), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), copper (Cu), dysprosium (Dy), erbium (Er), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), gallium (Ga), germanium (Ge), gold (Au), hafnium (Hf), holmium (Ho), indium (In), iridium (Ir), iron (Fe), lanthanum (La), lead (Pb), lithium (Li), lutetium (Lu), magnesium (Mg), manganese (Mn), mercury (Hg), molybdenum (Mo), neodymium (Nd), nickel (Ni), palladium (Pd), phosphorus (P), platinum (Pt), potassium (K), praseodymium (Pr), rhenium (Re), rhodium (Rh), rubidium (Rb), ruthenium (Ru), samarium (Sm), scandium (Sc), selenium (Se), silicon (Si), silver (Ag), sodium (Na), strontium (Sr), sulfur (S), tellurium (Te), terbium (Tb), thallium (Tl), thorium (Th), thulium (Tm), tin (Sn), titanium (Ti), tungsten (W), uranium (U), vanadium (V), ytterbium (Yb), yttrium (Y), zinc (Zn), and zirconium (Zr).

The working range depends on the matrix and the interferences encountered.

The limit of detection of the method is between 0,1 mg/kg dry matter and 2,0 mg/kg dry matter for most elements.

The limit of detection will be higher in cases where the determination is likely to be interfered (see Clause 4) or in case of memory effects (see e.g. 8.2 of EN ISO 17294-1:2006).

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2 Normative references (standards.iteh.ai)

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 15934, *Sludge, treated biowaste, soil and waste — Calculation of dry matter fraction after determination of dry residue or water content*

EN 16173, *Sludge, treated biowaste and soil — Digestion of nitric acid soluble fractions of elements*

EN 16174, *Sludge, treated biowaste and soil — Digestion of aqua regia soluble fractions of elements*

EN ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods (ISO 3696)*

EN ISO 17294-1:2006, *Water quality — Application of inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) — Part 1: General guidelines (ISO 17294-1:2004)*

3 Principle

Digests of sludge, treated biowaste or soil with nitric acid or *aqua regia* (see EN 16173 and EN 16174) are analysed by ICP-MS to get a multi-elemental determination of analytes.

The method measures ions produced by a radio-frequency inductively coupled plasma. Analyte species originating in the digest solution are nebulised and the resulting aerosol is transported by argon gas into the plasma. The ions produced by the high temperatures of the plasma are entrained in the plasma gas and introduced, by means of an interface, into a mass spectrometer, sorted according to their mass-to-charge ratios and quantified with a detector (e.g. channel electron multiplier).

CEN/TS 16171:2012 (E)**4 Interferences****4.1 General**

Interferences shall be assessed and valid corrections applied. Interference correction shall include compensation for background ions contributed by the plasma gas, reagents, and constituents of the sample matrix.

Detailed information on spectral and non-spectral interferences is given in EN ISO 17294-1:2006, Clause 6.

4.2 Spectral interferences**4.2.1 Isobaric elemental interferences**

Isobaric elemental interferences are caused by isotopes of different elements of closely matched nominal mass-to-charge ratio and which cannot be separated due to an insufficient resolution of the mass spectrometer in use (e.g. ^{114}Cd and ^{114}Sn).

Element interferences from isobars may be corrected by taking into account the influence from the interfering element (see EN ISO 17294-1:2006). The isotopes used for correction shall be free of interference if possible. Correction options are often included in the software supplied with the instrument. Common isobaric interferences are given in Table A.1.

4.2.2 Isobaric molecular and doubly-charged ion interferences

Isobaric molecular and doubly-charged ion interferences in ICP-MS are caused by ions consisting of more than one atom or charge, respectively. Examples include $^{40}\text{Ar}^{35}\text{Cl}^+$ and $^{40}\text{Ca}^{35}\text{Cl}^+$ ion on the ^{75}As signal or $^{98}\text{Mo}^{16}\text{O}^+$ ions on the $^{114}\text{Cd}^+$ signal. Natural isotope abundances are available from the literature.

The accuracy of correction equations is based upon the constancy of the observed isotopic ratios for the interfering species. Corrections that presume a constant fraction of a molecular ion relative to the "parent" ion have not been found to be reliable, e.g. oxide levels can vary with operating conditions. If a correction for an oxide ion is based upon the ratio of parent-to-oxide ion intensities, this shall be determined by measuring the interference solution just before the sequence is started. The validity of the correction coefficient should be checked at regular intervals within a sequence.

Another possibility to remove isobaric molecular interferences is the use of an instrument with collision/reaction cell technology. The use of high resolution ICP-MS avoids these interferences and additionally double-charged ion interferences.

The response of the analyte of interest shall be corrected for the contribution of isobaric molecular and doubly charged interferences if their impact can be higher than three times the detection limit or higher than half the lowest concentration to be reported.

More information about the use of correction factors is given in EN ISO 17294-1.

4.2.3 Non-spectral interferences

Physical interferences are associated with sample nebulisation and transport processes as well as with ion-transmission efficiencies. Nebulisation and transport processes can be affected if a matrix component causes a change in surface tension or viscosity. Changes in matrix composition can cause significant signal suppression or enhancement. Solids can be deposited on the nebuliser tip of a pneumatic nebuliser and on the cones.

It is recommended to keep the level of total dissolved solids below 0,2 % (2 000 mg/l) to minimise deposition of solids in the sample introduction system of the plasma torch. An internal standard can be used to correct for physical interferences if it is carefully matched to the analyte, so that the two elements are similarly affected

by matrix changes. Other possibilities to minimise non-spectral interferences are matrix matching, particularly matching of the acid concentration, and standard addition.

When intolerable physical interferences are present in a sample, a significant suppression of the internal standard signals (to less than 30 % of the signals in the calibration solution) will be observed. Dilution of the sample (e.g. fivefold) usually eliminates the problem.

5 Reagents

For the determination of elements at trace and ultra-trace level, the reagents shall be of adequate purity. The concentration of the analyte or interfering substances in the reagents and the water should be negligible compared to the lowest concentration to be determined.

5.1 Water, grade 1 as specified in EN ISO 3696 for all sample preparations and dilutions.

5.2 Nitric acid, HNO_3 , $\rho(\text{HNO}_3) = 1,4 \text{ g/ml}$, $c(\text{HNO}_3) = 15 \text{ mol/l}$, $w(\text{HNO}_3) = 650 \text{ g/kg}$.

5.3 Hydrochloric acid, HCl , $\rho(\text{HCl}) = 1,18 \text{ g/ml}$, $c(\text{HCl}) = 12 \text{ mol/l}$, $w(\text{HCl}) = 370 \text{ g/kg}$.

5.4 Single-element standard stock solutions

Ag, Al, As, Au, B, Ba, Be, Bi, Ca, Cd, Ce, Co, Cr, Cs, Cu, Dy, Er, Eu, Fe, Ga, Gd, Ge, Hf, Hg, Ho, In, Ir, K, La, Li, Lu, Mg, Mn, Mo, Na, Nd, Ni, P, Pb, Pd, Pr, Pt, Rb, Re, Rh, Ru, S, Sb, Sc, Se, Si, Sm, Sn, Sr, Tb, Te, Th, Ti, Tl, Tm, U, V, W, Y, Yb, Zn, Zr, $\rho(\text{element}) = 1\,000 \text{ mg/l}$ each.

Preferably, nitric acid preservation should be applied in order to minimise interferences by chloropolyatom molecules. Bi, Hf, Hg, Mo, Sn, Sb, Te, W and Zr may need hydrochloric acid for preservation.

Both single-element standard stock solutions and multi-element standard stock solutions with adequate specification stating the acid used and the preparation technique are commercially available.

These solutions are considered to be stable for more than one year, but in reference to guaranteed stability, the recommendations of the manufacturer should be considered.

5.5 Anion standard stock solutions

Cl^- , PO_4^{3-} , SO_4^{2-} , $\rho(\text{anion}) = 1\,000 \text{ mg/l}$ each.

Prepare these solutions from the respective acids. The solutions are commercially available.

These solutions are considered to be stable for more than one year, but in reference to guaranteed stability, the recommendations of the manufacturer should be considered.

5.6 Multi-element standard stock solutions

Depending on the scope, different multi-element standard stock solutions may be necessary. In general, when combining multi-element standard stock solutions, their chemical compatibility and the possible hydrolysis of the components shall be regarded. Care shall be taken to prevent chemical reactions (e.g. precipitation).

The multi-element standard stock solutions are considered to be stable for several months if stored in the dark. This does not apply to multi-element standard stock solutions that are prone to hydrolysis, in particular solutions of Bi, Mo, Sn, Sb, Te, W, Hf and Zr.

Mercury standard stock solutions can be stabilised by adding 1 mg/l Au in nitric acid (5.2) or by adding hydrochloric acid (5.3) up to 0,6 %.