
**Environmental tobacco smoke —
Estimation of its contribution to
respirable suspended particles — Method
based on solanesol**

*Fumée de tabac ambiante — Estimation de sa contribution aux
particules en suspension respirables — Méthode basée sur le solanesol*

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Contents

	Page
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	2
5 Limits and detection	2
6 Reagents	2
7 Apparatus	3
8 Sampling procedure	4
8.1 Calibration of air pumping system	4
8.2 Sample collection	4
9 Analytical procedure	5
9.1 Preparation of samples and blanks	5
9.2 Determination of solanesol	5
10 Expression of results	7
10.1 Calculation of solanesol contents	7
10.2 ETS-PM contribution to RSP as estimated by solanesol	8
11 Laboratory performance criteria and quality assurance	8
12 Repeatability and reproducibility	8
13 Test report	9
Annex A (informative) Laboratory performance criteria: Quality assurance measures	10
Bibliography	12

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.

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Introduction

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) is an aerosol consisting of both vapour and particulate phase components. Due to the nature of the two aerosol phases, they rarely correlate well, and an accurate assessment of ETS levels in indoor air requires determining good tracers of both phases. Among the attributes of an ideal ETS tracer, one critical characteristic is that the tracer should “remain in a fairly consistent ratio to the individual contaminant of interest or category of contaminants of interest (e.g. suspended particulates) under a range of environmental conditions...” (see [1]).

NOTE The Bibliography gives full references to the literature cited.

Solanesol, a C₄₅ isoprenoid alcohol, meets this requirement, since it remains in a constant ratio to respirable suspended particles (RSP) contributed by tobacco smoke over a variety of ventilation conditions and sampling durations (see [2]). Ultraviolet particulate matter (UVP) and fluorescent particulate matter (FPM), determined in accordance with ISO 15593^[3], are tracers or markers which also fulfil this requirement. Airborne solanesol, however, is unique in that it is specific to tobacco smoke and is found only in the particulate phase of ETS. Its high molecular mass and low volatility make it extremely unlikely that any solanesol will be lost from the membrane filter used for sample collection. Solanesol constitutes approximately 3 % by mass of the RSP of ETS (see [4] to [6]), making it suitable for measurement at realistic smoking rates. Of the available ETS particulate phase markers (UVP, FPM and solanesol), all are currently used and relied upon, but solanesol is considered to be a better marker for the particulate phase of ETS and, as a result, provides the best way of quantifying the contribution of ETS particulate matter (ETS-PM) to RSP (see [7] to [15]).

It is important to be able to quantify the contribution of ETS to RSP with a tobacco-specific marker because RSP is not specific to tobacco smoke. RSP is a necessary indicator of overall air quality; in the United States, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has previously set a PEL (permissible exposure level) for respirable dust in the workplace of 5.000 µg/m³. However, RSP emanates from numerous sources (see [16]) and has been shown to be an inappropriate tracer of ETS (see [4], [17] to [19]). UVP and FPM are used as more selective markers to estimate the contribution of tobacco smoke to RSP. However, these markers can overestimate the contribution of tobacco smoke to RSP due to potential interference from non-tobacco combustion sources. Although UVP and FPM are useful in investigations of indoor air quality, solanesol is a better indicator of the tobacco smoke contribution to RSP. The test method described in this International Standard has been used to apportion RSP into ETS and non-ETS components by determining the mass ratio of solanesol to total RSP (see [4], [6], [10], [11], [14], [15], [20], [21]).

The genus *Nicotiana*, which includes tobacco as one of its species, is a member of the *Solanaceae* family of plants. Like tobacco, many plants in this family, particularly those which also contain trace amounts of nicotine, contain solanesol. Examples are tomato, potato, eggplant and pepper. With cooking as the only possible source of interference, the potential for interference is negligible. However, if there were an interference of this type, the mass of solanesol would be biased high and the contribution of ETS to RSP would be overestimated. It is anticipated that the only measurable contribution of solanesol to an indoor environment would come from tobacco combustion. Solanesol concentrations typically range from not detected to 2 µg/m³ in various indoor environments, with most levels at the lower end of this range.

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Environmental tobacco smoke — Estimation of its contribution to respirable suspended particles — Method based on solanesol

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the sampling and determination of respirable suspended particles (RSP) and for the estimation of the RSP fraction attributable to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS). This method is applicable to personal and area sampling. This method is compatible with the determinations of gravimetric RSP, ultraviolet particulate matter (UVP) and fluorescent particulate matter (FPM), which are also used to estimate the contribution of ETS to RSP.

NOTE See ISO 15593^[3] for details.

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 648:1977, *Laboratory glassware — One-mark pipettes*

ISO 1042:1998, *Laboratory glassware — One-mark volumetric flasks*

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3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

environmental tobacco smoke

ETS

mixture of aged and diluted exhaled mainstream smoke and aged and diluted sidestream smoke

3.2

respirable suspended particles

RSP

particles which, when captured by a size-selective sampling device, conform to a collection efficiency curve with a median cut point at an aerodynamic diameter of 4,0 µm

NOTE See ISO 7708^[22].

3.3

environmental tobacco smoke particulate matter

ETS-PM

particulate phase of ETS

3.4

solanesol particulate matter

SoI-PM

estimation of the contribution of ETS-PM to RSP, based on the determination of a tobacco-specific compound: solanesol

4 Principle

A known volume of air is drawn through an inertial impactor or cyclone separating at 4,0 µm, thus separating RSP from the total suspended particulate matter. It is then drawn through a filter cassette containing a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane filter. Solanesol is collected on the filter as a component of RSP. The solanesol is extracted from the filter with methanol, then the extract is injected into a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system equipped with an ultraviolet (UV) detector (205 nm absorbance). The area of the resulting solanesol peak is compared to the areas obtained from the injection of standard solutions of solanesol, and the mass of solanesol is determined. The concentration of solanesol (µg/m³) is calculated from the mass of solanesol and the volume of air sampled. The concentration of RSP attributable to ETS, referred to as Sol-PM, is calculated from the airborne concentration of solanesol and the experimentally determined mass ratio of solanesol to RSP in ETS (see [6], [24], [25]). If desired, the total concentration of RSP (see ISO 15593^[3]) may be calculated for apportionment of RSP into ETS and non-ETS fractions.

5 Limits and detection

The method specified in this International Standard allows the estimation of solanesol content within the following limits. At a sampling rate of 2 l/min, this test method shows limits of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) (see [13]) of 0,042 µg/m³ and 0,139 µg/m³, respectively, for a 1 h sampling period, and 0,005 µg/m³ and 0,017 µg/m³, respectively, for an 8 h sampling period.

6 Reagents

All reagents shall be of recognized analytical grade.

6.1 Acetonitrile, HPLC grade.

6.2 Methanol, HPLC grade.

6.3 Solanesol, minimum purity 90 %.

6.4 Helium, minimum purity 99,995 % grade.

6.5 Solanesol standard solutions

Store all standard solutions in low-actinic borosilicate glass screw-cap jars in a freezer (0 °C or less) when not in use. Prepare fresh standards from solanesol at least every 12 months.

6.5.1 Primary standard of solanesol

Prepare a primary standard of solanesol (300 µg/ml) by weighing 30 mg of solanesol (assuming 100 % solanesol purity; 6.3) directly into a 100 ml volumetric flask. Dilute to the mark with methanol (6.2) and shake to mix.

Actual concentration of standard solutions will depend on the exact mass and purity of the solanesol reagent used (6.3 and 6.5.1). Obtain the solanesol purity from the vendor for the specific lot of solanesol used. The actual purity of the solanesol reagent used shall be taken into account when calculating the exact concentration of the standard solutions prepared.

6.5.2 Secondary standard of solanesol

Prepare a secondary standard of solanesol (15 µg/ml) by transferring 5,00 ml of the primary standard to a 100 ml volumetric flask. Dilute to the mark with methanol (6.2) and shake to mix.

6.5.3 Tertiary standard of solanesol

Prepare a tertiary standard of solanesol (6 µg/ml) by transferring 2,00 ml of the primary standard to a 100 ml volumetric flask. Dilute to the mark with methanol (6.2) and shake to mix.

6.5.4 Working standards of solanesol

Prepare five working standards covering the expected concentration range of the samples by transferring defined volumes of the tertiary, secondary, and primary standards to 100 ml volumetric flasks. Dilute to the mark with methanol (6.2) and shake to mix. Typical volumes used are 1 ml of the tertiary standard (6.5.3); 1 ml, 3 ml, and 7 ml of the secondary standard (6.5.2); and 1 ml of the primary standard (6.5.1). These volumes yield a calibration range of solanesol standards with the following concentrations of solanesol: 0,060 µg/ml, 0,150 µg/ml, 0,450 µg/ml, 1,05 µg/ml and 3,00 µg/ml.

7 Apparatus

Usual laboratory apparatus and, in particular, the following items.

7.1 Sample collection system

7.1.1 Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) membrane filter, of pore size 1,0 µm and diameter 37 mm. The PTFE membrane is bonded to a high-density polyethylene support net, referred to as the filter backing, to improve durability and handling ease.

7.1.2 Filter cassette, of black, opaque, conductive polypropylene in a three-piece configuration consisting of a 12,7 mm spacer ring inserted between the top (inlet) and bottom (outlet) pieces. The filter cassette holds the PTFE membrane filter during sampling. All connections to the filter cassette are made with flexible plastic tubing.

NOTE The three-piece filter cassette (with a spacer ring in the centre) is not always needed.

7.1.3 Bubble flowmeter or mass flowmeter, for calibration of the sampling pump.

7.1.4 Personal sampling pump, constant-flow air sampling pump, calibrated for a flow rate dependent upon the separating characteristics of the impactor or cyclone in use (7.1.5).

7.1.5 Inertial impactor or cyclone, with nominal cut point of 4,0 µm at the specified flow rate. If an alternative definition of RSP is used (3.2), ensure that the impactor or cyclone is compatible with this definition.

7.1.6 Stopcock grease, for coating impactor plates.

7.2 Analytical system

7.2.1 High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) system, consisting of an HPLC pump, a UV detector with deuterium source lamp, autosampler, column oven (optional), and data acquisition and peak integration system.

7.2.2 HPLC column, 250 mm by 3,0 mm inside diameter, reversed-phase C₁₈ column (of pore size 30 nm and particle size 5 µm). C₁₈ packing material with low carbon loading has been found to be preferable.

7.2.3 Guard cartridge column, with packing material and dimensions compatible with the HPLC column (7.2.2), placed in front of the analytical column for protecting and prolonging the life of the column.

7.2.4 Sample containers, consisting of low-actinic borosilicate glass autosampler vials, of 4 ml capacity, with screw caps and PTFE-lined septa.

7.3 Dispensing pipettes, 3,00 ml.

7.4 Filter forceps, for handling filters.

7.5 Wrist-action shaking device, for solvent extraction.

7.6 One-mark pipettes, complying with class A of ISO 648:1977.

7.7 **One-mark volumetric flasks**, complying with class A of ISO 1042:1998.

8 Sampling procedure

8.1 Calibration of air pumping system

If a gravimetric determination of RSP is to be performed, then weigh the filters in accordance with ISO 15593^[3], prior to calibrating the air pumping system.

Adjust the potentiometer on the air sampling pump (7.1.4) to obtain the flow rate specified for the particular type of inertial impactor or cyclone (7.1.5) being used.

Calibrate the air sampling pump prior to and immediately after sampling. For calibration, connect the flowmeter (7.1.3) to the inlet of the inertial impactor or cyclone. Measure the flow with the prepared filter cassette in place between the pump and the impactor or cyclone.

The flow rate through the prepared filter cassette cannot be measured with some types of cyclones in place without using specialized equipment (see [13]). For calibration of sampling systems using these types of cyclones without the necessary specialized equipment, connect the flowmeter directly to the prepared filter cassette, and measure the flow (with the filter cassette in place between the pump and the flowmeter) prior to attaching the cyclone to the prepared filter cassette.

If using a mass flowmeter, record the volumetric flow rate, (q_V) of the air sampling pump. If using a bubble flowmeter, generate several soap-film bubbles in the flowmeter and allow them to thoroughly wet the surface before recording any actual measurements. Measure the time for a soap-film bubble to travel a known volume with a stopwatch. Obtain five replicate measurements and compute the mean time.

Calculate the volumetric flow rate, q_V , expressed in litres per minute (l/min), from the following equation:

$$q_V = \frac{V}{t} \tag{1}$$

where

V is the volume measured with flowmeter, expressed in litres (l);

t is the average time for a soap-film bubble to travel V litres in the bubble flowmeter, expressed in minutes (min).

8.2 Sample collection

With the prepared filter cassette (7.1.2) correctly inserted and positioned between the air sampling pump and the impactor or cyclone, turn on the pump power switch to begin sampling, and record the start time.

NOTE Some pumps have microprocessing capabilities and/or built-in elapsed time meters for preset sampling periods.

Collect samples at the flow rate required for the impactor or cyclone (7.1.5) in use, for a minimum time period of 1 h. Turn off the pump at the end of the desired sampling period, and record the time elapsed during sample collection.

This test method is limited in sampling period only by the capacity of the membrane filter for total collected mass (about 2 000 µg). This test method has been evaluated up to a 24 h sampling period. A minimum sampling period of at least 1 h is recommended.

Recheck the flow rate of the pump again after sample collection, and use the average flow rate, \bar{q}_V (mean of before and after sample collection), in later calculations.

Immediately remove the filter cassette containing the sample collected on the membrane filter (7.1.1) from the sampling system, and plug the inlet and outlet ports of the cassette with plastic plugs.

Treat a minimum of six prepared filter cassettes containing filters in the same manner as the samples (remove plugs, measure flow, replace plugs, and transport). Label and process these filters as field blanks.

If the collected samples are not to be prepared and analysed immediately, then store the filter cassettes containing the samples in a freezer (at 0 °C or less) or under dry ice, transport them frozen to the laboratory, and store frozen until analysis.

Analyse all the filters within six weeks after sample collection. It has been established that samples are stable for at least six weeks at –10 °C storage conditions (see [23]).

9 Analytical procedure

9.1 Preparation of samples and blanks

If a gravimetric determination of RSP is to be performed, then reweigh the filters in accordance with ISO 15593^[3], prior to preparing the samples and blanks.

Place each filter in a clean sample vial (7.2.4), label the vial and add 3,00 ml of methanol (V_m). Prepare field blanks in exactly the same manner as the samples. In addition, prepare and analyse two unweighed filters as laboratory blanks.

If samples and field blanks were stored frozen, allow them to reach room temperature before adding the methanol.

If high concentration samples are being analysed, filters may be extracted in larger volumes of methanol (4,00 ml can be accommodated in the specified vials), or initial extracts may be quantitatively diluted.

Seal the vial tightly with the septum/cap assembly, and place in a holding tray. After all samples have been prepared, transfer the vials or trays to the shaking device (7.5), and extract under agitation for 60 min.

9.2 Determination of solanesol

9.2.1 Setting up the apparatus

Set up the apparatus and operate the high-performance liquid chromatography system in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The HPLC is equipped with a UV detector. A UV detector with a deuterium source is required. A detector with a xenon source is not acceptable because of insufficient lamp energy at 205 nm.

Use the following operating conditions:

- purge gas: helium;
- mobile phase: 95:5 (by volume) of acetonitrile:methanol;
- HPLC pump flow: 0,5 ml/min;
- injection volume: 100 µl;
- run time: 15 min;
- detector wavelength setting: 205 nm.