



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD  
SIST ISO 7981-2:2007**

**01-februar-2007**

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Water quality -- Determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) -- Part 2:  
Determination of six PAH by high-performance liquid chromatography with fluorescence  
detection after liquid-liquid extraction

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Qualité de l'eau -- Détermination des hydrocarbures aromatiques polycycliques (HAP) --  
Partie 2: Dosage de six HAP par chromatographie de haute performance en phase  
liquide avec détection fluorimétrique à la suite d'une extraction liquide-liquide

**Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: ISO 7981-2:2005**

**ICS:**

13.060.50 Ú!^ã\ ææç[ å^Á æ^ {ã}^ Examination of water for  
•}[ çã chemical substances

**SIST ISO 7981-2:2007**

**en**

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**Water quality — Determination of  
polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons  
(PAH) —**

Part 2:

**Determination of six PAH by high-  
performance liquid chromatography with  
fluorescence detection after liquid-liquid  
extraction**

*Qualité de l'eau — Détermination des hydrocarbures aromatiques  
polycycliques (HAP)*  
*Partie 2: Dosage de six HAP par chromatographie de haute  
performance en phase liquide avec détection fluorimétrique à la suite  
d'une extraction liquide-liquide*



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Published in Switzerland

## Contents

Page

Foreword.....	iv
Introduction .....	v
1 Scope .....	1
2 Normative references .....	1
3 Principle.....	1
4 Interferences .....	2
5 Reagents .....	3
6 Apparatus .....	4
7 Sampling.....	5
8 Procedure .....	6
9 Calibration .....	8
10 Measurement of samples.....	9
11 Determination of the recovery.....	9
12 Blank measurement.....	10
13 Calculation.....	10
14 Expression of results .....	10
15 Test report .....	11
16 Accuracy.....	11
Annex A (informative) Examples of chromatographic conditions and columns.....	12
Annex B (informative) Examples for the construction of special apparatus .....	14
Annex C (informative) Accuracy .....	17
Bibliography .....	18

## 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 7981-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

ISO 7981 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)*:

- *Part 1: Determination of six PAH by high-performance thin-layer chromatography with fluorescence detection after liquid-liquid extraction*  
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- *Part 2: Determination of six PAH by high-performance liquid chromatography with fluorescence detection after liquid-liquid extraction*

## Introduction

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) are present in nearly all types of waters. These substances are adsorbed on solids (sediments, suspended matter) as well as dissolved in the liquid phase.

Some PAH are known or suspected to cause cancer. The maximum acceptable levels of PAH in waters intended for human consumption are given in European Legislation [1] [2] [3] [4].

The sum of the mass concentrations of the six PAH specified in this part of ISO 7981 usually is about 0,01 µg/l to 0,05 µg/l in ground water, up to 1 µg/l in surface water, and up to 1 000 µg/l in waste water.

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# Water quality — Determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) —

Part 2:

## Determination of six PAH by high-performance liquid chromatography with fluorescence detection after liquid-liquid extraction

**WARNING** — Some compounds being measured are presumed to be carcinogenic. Acetonitrile and hexane are harmful.

Persons using this part of ISO 7981 should be familiar with normal laboratory practise. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this part of ISO 7981 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 part of ISO 7981 be carried out by suitably trained staff.

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 7981 specifies the determination of six selected PAH in drinking, mineral and table waters and ground and surface waters in mass concentrations above 0,005 µg/l, by high-performance liquid chromatography with fluorescence detection after liquid-liquid extraction. The six PAH are: fluoranthene, benzo[*b*]fluoranthene, benzo[*a*]pyrene, benzo[*k*]fluoranthene, indeno[1,2,3-*cd*]pyrene, and benzo[*ghi*]perylene (see Table 1).

With some modification, this method is also applicable for the analysis of moderately polluted waste waters.

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

### 3 Principle

Since PAH can to a large extent be adsorbed on particulate matter, the whole sample is analysed.

**NOTE** For the analysis of surface water, a differentiation between dissolved and undissolved PAH can be desirable, but this is not relevant for drinking water.

PAH are extracted from the water sample by liquid-liquid extraction. The extract is evaporated to dryness and the residue is taken up in a solvent and analysed.

Extracts of surface waters and other contaminated water samples should be cleaned on silica (8.4) prior to analysis.

PAH are then separated by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) on suitable stationary phases under isocratic conditions, identified and quantified by means of fluorescence detection at a constant combination of excitation and emission wavelengths.

**Table 1 — Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons determinable by this method**

Name	Chemical formula	Molar mass g/mol	Carbon fraction	CAS-number	Structure
Fluoranthene	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>10</sub>	202,26	95,0	206-44-0	
Benzo[ <i>b</i> ]fluoranthene	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	252,32	95,2	205-99-2	
Benzo[ <i>a</i> ]pyrene	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	252,32	95,2	50-32-8	
Benzo[ <i>k</i> ]fluoranthene	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	252,32	95,2	207-08-9	
Indeno[1,2,3- <i>cd</i> ]pyrene	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	276,34	95,6	193-39-5	
Benzo[ <i>ghi</i> ]perylene	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>12</sub>	276,34	95,6	191-24-2	

## 4 Interferences

### 4.1 Interferences with sampling and extraction

Use sampling containers made of materials (preferably of glass or steel) that do not affect the sample during the contact time. Avoid plastics and other organic materials during sampling, sample storage or extraction.

If automatic samplers are used, avoid the use of silicone or rubber material for the tubes. If present, make sure that the tubes are as short as possible. Rinse the sampling line with the water to be sampled before the test sample is taken. ISO 5667-2 and ISO 5667-3 can be used for guidance.

Keep the samples from direct sunlight and prolonged exposure to light.

During storage of the test sample, losses of PAH can occur due to adsorption on the walls of the containers. The extent of the losses depends on the storage time.

## 4.2 Interferences with the HPLC

Substances that show either fluorescence or quenching and co-elute with the PAH to be determined can interfere with the determination. These interferences can lead to incompletely resolved signals and can, depending on their magnitude, affect accuracy and precision of the analytical results. Peak overlaps will prevent the measurement of peak height and/or area. Unsymmetrical peaks and peaks broader than the respective peaks of the reference substance suggest interferences.

## 5 Reagents

Use only reagents of recognized analytical grade (e.g. "for residue analysis" or "for HPLC analysis") as far as available, and only distilled water or water of equivalent purity showing the lowest possible fluorescence.

Monitor the blank to guarantee that the reagents do not contain PAH in detectable concentrations (see Clause 12).

### 5.1 Solvents

#### 5.1.1 Solvents for extraction and clean-up of the extract

5.1.1.1 Cyclohexane, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>12</sub> (standards.iteh.ai)

5.1.1.2 Hexane, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>14</sub>

5.1.1.3 Dichloromethane, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/735c599a-9c0d-4cdd-9f16-816c8c72f696/sist-iso-7981-2-2007>

Other volatile solvents may be used as well, if it is proved that the recovery is equivalent or better.

NOTE Dichloromethane often contains stabilizers, e.g. ethanol or amylene. Stabilizers can influence the elution strength of the eluent. Without stabilizer, free radicals might develop. This can lead to degradation of PAH. The presence of hydrogen chloride indicates the presence of radicals. Hydrogen chloride can be determined by extracting dichloromethane with water and measuring the pH value.

#### 5.1.2 HPLC solvents

5.1.2.1 Methanol, CH<sub>3</sub>OH

5.1.2.2 Acetonitrile, CH<sub>3</sub>CN

5.1.2.3 Tetrahydrofuran, C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O, without stabilizer

NOTE Tetrahydrofuran can contain peroxides. Although peroxides have not yet shown to cause any interference with the HPLC determination, it is preferred to use batches with low peroxide content (regularly checked using test rods). It is of advantage to use small packages.

5.2 Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate, Na<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O

5.3 Sodium chloride, NaCl

5.4 Sodium sulfate, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, anhydrous, precleaned by heating to 500 °C.

5.5 Nitrogen, having a purity (volume fraction) of at least 99,999 %.