
**Water quality — Determination of
adsorbable organically bound halogens
(AOX)**

*Qualité de l'eau — Dosage des composés organiques halogénés
adsorbables (AOX)*

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Contents

Page

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | iv |
| Introduction | v |
| 1 Scope..... | 1 |
| 2 Normative references | 1 |
| 3 Terms and definitions | 1 |
| 4 Interferences..... | 2 |
| 5 Principle | 2 |
| 6 Reagents | 2 |
| 7 Apparatus..... | 4 |
| 8 Sampling and sample pre-treatment..... | 6 |
| 9 Procedure..... | 7 |
| 10 Calculation | 11 |
| 11 Precision | 11 |
| 12 Test report..... | 12 |
| Annex A (informative) Determination of dissolved adsorbable organically bound halogens after solid phase extraction (SPE-AOX) in waters with high salt content | 13 |
| Annex B (informative) Handling of activated carbon..... | 18 |
| Annex C (informative) Statistical performance characteristics | 19 |
| Bibliography | 21 |

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 9562 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 9562:1998), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

Adsorbable organically bound halogens (AOX) is an analytical convention. The result is a parameter used for water quality control purposes. It represents the sum of organically bound chlorine, bromine and iodine (but not fluorine) that can be adsorbed on activated carbon under specified conditions and, if the sample is not filtered, includes that associated with suspended matter.

The user should be aware that particular problems could require the specification of additional marginal conditions.

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Water quality — Determination of adsorbable organically bound halogens (AOX)

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.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted according to this International Standard be carried out by suitably qualified staff.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the direct determination of an amount of usually 10 µg/l in water of organically bound chlorine, bromine and iodine (expressed as chloride) adsorbable on activated carbon.

This method is applicable to test samples (see 9.2) with concentrations of inorganic chloride ions of less than 1 g/l. Samples with higher concentrations are diluted prior to analysis.

This method is also applicable to samples containing suspended solids where halogens are adsorbed onto the solid matter (e.g. insoluble halides). Filtration of the sample before analysis allows the separate determination of dissolved and particulate adsorbable organically bound halogens (AOX).

Filtered samples with high inorganic chloride content can be analysed by a modified method [dissolved adsorbable organically bound halogens after solid phase extraction in waters with high salt content (SPE-AOX)] (see Annex A). However, results obtained by this modified method can differ significantly from those of the required method.

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 1773:1997, *Laboratory glassware — Narrow-necked boiling flasks*

ISO 3696:1987, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

adsorbable organically bound halogens

AOX

equivalent amount of chlorine, bromine, and iodine contained in organic compounds, expressed as chloride when determined according to this International Standard

3.2
dissolved organic carbon
DOC

amount of organically bound carbon present in water originating from compounds passing through a membrane filter of 0,45 µm pore size and including cyanate and thiocyanate

4 Interferences

4.1 High AOX values can result from the presence of active chlorine and of some inorganic bromine and iodine compounds, irreversibly bound to activated carbon. Reactions of these oxidizing agents with organic substances in the sample and with the activated carbon can be prevented by the addition of sodium sulfite, immediately after sampling.

4.2 Organic bromine and iodine compounds may, during combustion, decompose to elemental bromine or iodine respectively and this can yield higher oxidation states of these elements. These fractions of AOX may be incompletely determined, thus leading to negative bias.

4.3 Samples containing living cells (for example microorganisms or algae) may give rise to high results because of their chloride content. In these cases, the sample is not analysed until at least 8 h after acidification.

4.4 For samples with high chloride concentrations (approximately 1 g/l), the shaking procedure (9.3.2) can result in higher interferences than the column procedure (9.3.4).

4.5 Alcohols, aromatic compounds, or carboxylic acids may give rise to negative bias (e.g. in case of DOC values > 100 mg/l).

4.6 For samples containing suspended solids, the stirring method (9.3.3) may lead to an insufficient covering of the particles. If the particles contain substances contributing to the AOX, the shaking or column method is recommended.

4.7 The recovery of some polar and hydrophilic compounds, such as monochloroacetic acid, is incomplete.

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5 Principle

Acidification of the water sample with nitric acid. Adsorption of organic compounds contained in the sample onto activated carbon, either by a shaking procedure, a stirring procedure, or by column adsorption. Displacement of inorganic halides by rinsing the activated carbon with sodium nitrate solution acidified with nitric acid. Combustion of the loaded carbon in an oxygen stream. Absorption of the hydrogen halides in an acceptor solution followed by determination of the halide ions by an argentometric titration, such as microcoulometry. Expression of the result as the mass concentration of chloride.

6 Reagents

Use only reagents of recognized analytical grade. The purity of water, reagents and gases shall be confirmed.

The AOX content shall be negligible when compared with the lowest AOX content to be determined. The overall AOX content of water, chemicals and gases can be checked by measuring the total blank (10.2).

6.1 Water, Grade 1 as specified in ISO 3696:1987.

6.2 Activated carbon, the handling of which is given in Annex B, for one of three procedures listed in 6.2.1 to 6.2.3.

Several methods may be applied to determine the adsorption capacity. One of these methods is described in reference [1]. The iodine number gives an indication of the activated carbon adsorption capacity. According to the method given in reference [1], the iodine numbers shall be $> 1\ 050$.

The blank value of the washed activated carbon shall be less than 15 μg of chloride equivalent per gram of activated carbon.

6.2.1 Activated carbon for the shaking procedure, with a grain size of about 10 μm to 50 μm .

6.2.2 Activated carbon fleeces for the stirring procedure, are commercially available¹⁾.

6.2.3 Activated carbon for the column procedure, with a grain size of about 50 μm to 150 μm .

6.3 Nitric acid, HNO_3 .

6.3.1 Nitric acid, concentrated, $\rho(\text{HNO}_3) = 1,4\ \text{g/ml}$, $w(\text{HNO}_3) = 65\ \%$.

6.3.2 Nitric acid, dilute, $c(\text{HNO}_3) = 0,02\ \text{mol/l}$.

6.4 Hydrochloric acid, $c(\text{HCl}) = 0,010\ \text{mol/l}$.

The molarity shall be known precisely, since the acid is used for checking the microtitration (9.5.1).

6.5 Sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4 , $\rho(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 1,84\ \text{g/ml}$.

6.6 Gases for combustion, for example oxygen (O_2), or a mixture of oxygen and an inert gas.

6.7 Nitrate, stock solution, $c(\text{NaNO}_3) = 0,2\ \text{mol/l}$.

Dissolve 17 g of sodium nitrate (NaNO_3) in water (6.1) in a 1 000 ml volumetric flask, add 25 ml of concentrated HNO_3 (6.3.1), and make up to volume with water (6.1).

If stored in a brown glass bottle, the solution is stable for three months.

6.8 Nitrate washing solution, $c(\text{NaNO}_3) = 0,01\ \text{mol/l}$, $\text{pH} \approx 1,7$.

Pipette 50 ml of the nitrate stock solution (6.7) in a 1 000 ml volumetric flask, and make up to volume with water (6.1).

If stored in a brown glass bottle, the solution is stable for one month.

6.9 Sodium sulfite solution, $c(\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3) = 1\ \text{mol/l}$.

Dissolve 126 g of Na_2SO_3 in water (6.1) in a 1 000 ml volumetric flask and make up to volume with water (6.1).

The solution is stable for one month if stored at 2 °C to 8 °C.

6.10 4-Chlorophenol, stock solution, $\rho_{\text{Cl}}(\text{AOX}) = 200\ \text{mg/l}$.

Dissolve 72,5 mg of 4-chlorophenol ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{ClO}$) in water (6.1) in a 100 ml volumetric flask and make up to volume with water (6.1).

1) A suitable product available commercially can be obtained from Normenausschuss Wasserwesen (NAW) im DIN Deutsches Institut für Normung e. V., 10772 Berlin. This information is given for the convenience of users of this International Standard and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of this product. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

For security reasons, it is advisable to use commercially available solutions.

This stock solution may be stored one month at 2 °C to 8 °C in a glass bottle.

6.11 4-Chlorophenol, working solution, $\rho_{Cl}(AOX) = 1 \text{ mg/l}$.

Pipette 5 ml of 4-chlorophenol, stock solution (6.10), into a 1 000 ml volumetric flask, and make up to volume with water (6.1).

This working solution may be stored one week at 2 °C to 8 °C in a glass bottle.

6.12 2-Chlorobenzoic acid, stock solution, $\rho_{Cl}(AOX) = 250 \text{ mg/l}$.

Dissolve 110,4 mg of 2-chlorobenzoic acid ($\text{ClC}_6\text{H}_4\text{COOH}$) in water in a 100 ml volumetric flask and make up to volume with water (6.1).

The dissolution of 2-chlorobenzoic acid is very slow. It is recommended to prepare this solution the day before using it.

This stock solution may be stored for one month at 2 °C to 8 °C in a glass bottle.

6.13 2-Chlorobenzoic acid, working solution, $\rho_{Cl}(AOX) = 1 \text{ mg/l}$.

Pipette 4 ml of 2-chlorobenzoic acid, stock solution (6.12), into a 1 000 ml volumetric flask, and make up to volume with water (6.1).

This working solution may be stored 1 week at 2 °C to 8 °C in a glass bottle.

6.14 Standard solutions for the checks, on the overall procedure (9.5.2).

Pipette, for example, 1 ml, 5 ml, 10 ml, 20 ml, and 25 ml of the working solutions (6.11 or 6.13) into five separate 100 ml volumetric flasks, and make up to volume with water (6.1).

The AOX mass concentration of these solutions is 10 µg/l, 50 µg/l, 100 µg/l, 200 µg/l and 250 µg/l respectively.

The concentration of the solutions should be chosen in such a way that the total working range is covered.

Prepare fresh standard solutions on the day of use.

6.15 Potassium iodide (KI).

6.16 Starch solution, having a mass fraction of 1 %.

7 Apparatus

7.1 Activated carbon adsorption apparatus.

7.1.1 Adsorption apparatus for the shaking procedure (9.3.2).

7.1.1.1 Filtration apparatus, for example with filter funnel of capacity of $V = 0,15 \text{ l}$ and filter diameter of 25 mm.

7.1.1.2 Polycarbonate membrane filter, for example with diameter of 25 mm and pore width of 0,45 µm or equivalent filter material.

7.1.1.3 Conical flask, 250 ml, in accordance with ISO 1773.