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SIST ISO 11338-2:2004  
01-junij-2004

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Stationary source emissions -- Determination of gas and particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons -- Part 2: Sample preparation, clean-up and determination

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Émissions de sources fixes -- Détermination des hydrocarbures aromatiques polycycliques sous forme gazeuse et particulaire -- Partie 2: Préparation des échantillons, purification et détermination

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: ISO 11338-2:2003

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INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD

ISO  
11338-2

First edition  
2003-06-01

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**Stationary source emissions —  
Determination of gas and particle-phase  
polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons —**

Part 2:

**Sample preparation, clean-up and  
determination**

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*Emissions de sources fixes — Détermination des hydrocarbures  
aromatiques polycycliques sous forme gazeuse et particulaire —*

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Reference number  
ISO 11338-2:2003(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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## ISO 11338-2:2003(E)

## 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 11338-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Stationary source emissions*.

ISO 11338 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Stationary source emissions — Determination of gas and particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons*:

— *Part 1: Sampling*

— *Part 2: Sample preparation, clean-up and determination*

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## Introduction

This part of ISO 11338 describes procedures for sample preparation, clean-up and analysis of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) (collected from stack and waste gases), based on either high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) (see Annexes A and E) or gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) (see Annexes B, C and D).

PAHs are emitted to the atmosphere primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels and wood. PAHs are considered to be an important class of environmental carcinogens. The identification and quantification of PAHs emitted from stationary sources represent a critical aspect in the assessment of air quality.

Stack and waste gases emitted from stationary sources often contain solid particles. Because of the range of their vapour pressures, PAHs are distributed between gas and particle phases. In the atmosphere, PAHs containing four or more rings tend to adsorb onto particles, while PAHs containing two to four rings tend to be present in gaseous form. However in stack and waste gases, the distribution of PAHs between gas and particle phases depends on the temperature, the mass of emitted particles, particle size, humidity, type and concentration of PAH.

During sampling, sample storage and preparation of the sample, losses of PAH can occur and prevent quantitative analysis. These losses can be the result of the volatility of two- and three-ring PAHs, the physical-chemical instability of PAHs in the presence of light, O<sub>3</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, HCl and certain heavy metals.

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# Stationary source emissions — Determination of gas and particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons —

## Part 2: Sample preparation, clean-up and determination

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 11338 specifies procedures for sample preparation, clean-up and analysis for the determination of gas and particle-phase polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in stack and waste gases. The analytical methods are capable of detecting sub-microgram concentrations of PAH per cubic metre of sample, depending on the type of PAH and the flue gas volume sampled.

The methods described in this part of ISO 11338 are based on either high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

NOTE ISO 11338-1 describes three methods and specifies minimum requirements for the sampling of PAH in stack and waste gases.

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### 2 Normative references (standards.iteh.ai)

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 4225:1994, *Air quality — General aspects — Vocabulary*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 4225 and the following apply.

#### 3.1

##### polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon

##### PAH

compound that contains two or more fused aromatic rings made up of carbon and hydrogen atoms

#### 3.2

##### stationary source emission

gas emitted by a stationary plant or process and transported to a chimney for dispersion into the atmosphere

#### 3.3

##### accelerated solvent extractor

##### ASE

equipment that accelerates the traditional extraction process by using solvent at elevated temperatures

NOTE Pressure is applied to the sample extraction cell to maintain the heated solvent in a liquid state during the extraction.

**ISO 11338-2:2003(E)****4 Principle****4.1 Sampling**

A representative sample is collected from the gas passing through a duct under isokinetic conditions with the use of a suitable sampling device. The particulate phase is collected on a suitable filter and the gas phase is trapped by condensation onto an adsorbent [e.g. styrene-divinylbenzene polymer resin (XAD-2), polyurethane foam or other adsorbent of comparable efficiency].

**4.2 Analysis**

After sampling, the sample is removed from the sampling equipment. The parts of the sampling equipment which have been in contact with the sample are washed with solvent. The washings are then combined with the filter(s) and adsorbent and then extracted with a suitable organic solvent, with the use of a Soxhlet extractor [or other validated method, e.g. accelerated solvent extractor (ASE)]. The extract is concentrated by means of a rotary evaporator, followed by further concentration under nitrogen if necessary. Sample clean-up may be necessary before quantification.

An aliquot of the concentrated sample is analysed either by reversed phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or by gas chromatography-mass-spectrometry (GC-MS). The concentration of each PAH is calculated from the mass of PAH (particle- and gas-phase) determined during analysis and the volume of flue gas sampled corrected to appropriate reference conditions.

**5 Safety measures**

All PAH should be treated as potential carcinogens. The user should be familiar with the chemical and physical properties of PAH. Measures shall be taken to prevent PAH in solid form, extract or solution coming into contact with the body. PAH can co-distil with the solvent and may cling to the outside of glassware with ground glass stoppers.

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Owing in particular to the risks associated with working with PAH in solid form, self-preparation of standard solutions is ill-advised. The use of commercially available standard solutions<sup>1)</sup> minimizes the risk of exposure.

All glassware containing PAH solutions shall therefore be handled with solvent-resistant gloves. Any contamination can be revealed in ultraviolet light by fluorescence. PAH are most dangerous in solid form, becoming electrostatically charged. Therefore PAH should be weighed in a glove box. Unused samples and contaminated equipment, glassware and clothing shall be disposed of properly, taking into account the relevant regulations.

**6 Procedures****6.1 HPLC method****6.1.1 General**

This subclause describes the preparation, sample clean-up and analytical method for determining the concentration of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in stack and waste gases using high pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC).

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1) Standard Reference Material (SRM) 1647: Priority Pollutant Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons, a certified solution of 16 PAH in acetonitrile. This solution is an example of a suitable product available commercially from The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), US Department of Commerce, Gaithersburg, MD, USA. This information is given for the convenience of users of this part of ISO 11338 and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of this product.

## 6.1.2 Reagents and materials

- 6.1.2.1 **Acetonitrile**, HPLC grade.
- 6.1.2.2 **n-Hexane**, HPLC grade.
- 6.1.2.3 **Methanol**, HPLC grade.
- 6.1.2.4 **Pentane**, HPLC grade.
- 6.1.2.5 **Diethyl ether**, reagent grade, preserved with 2 % ethanol, HPLC grade.
- 6.1.2.6 **Silica gel**, high purity grade, type 60, 70 mesh to 23 mesh.
- 6.1.2.7 **Sodium sulfate**, anhydrous, reagent grade, dried by heating at 300 °C for at least 4 h.
- 6.1.2.8 **Recovery standards for HPLC**: 2-methylchrysene or 6-methylchrysene, purity at least 98 %.
- 6.1.2.9 **Compressed gases**: high purity helium for degassing the mobile phase and high purity nitrogen for sample concentration.
- 6.1.2.10 **Aluminium foil**.
- 6.1.2.11 **Glass wool**.

## 6.1.3 Apparatus

- 6.1.3.1 **Soxhlet extractor**, capacity 100 ml to 200 ml, and appropriate condenser.
- 6.1.3.2 **Glass-fibre filter**, precleaned by heating for 3 h at 200 °C or to an acceptable blank level.  
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- 6.1.3.3 **Round-bottom flasks**, capacity 100 ml and either 250 ml or 500 ml depending on the capacity of the Soxhlet extractor.
- 6.1.3.4 **Rotary evaporator system**, capable of producing a maximum vacuum of 0,1 MPa (1,0 bar), and with a water bath that can be heated to 50 °C.
- 6.1.3.5 **Kuderna Danish concentrators**, capacity 500 ml, including 10 ml graduated concentrator tubes with ground-glass stoppers, and a 3-ball macro-Snyder column.
- 6.1.3.6 **Nitrogen evaporative concentrator**: nitrogen blow-down apparatus with flowrate control and temperature-controlled water bath, evaporator tubes of volume 1 ml to 10 ml.
- 6.1.3.7 **Separation funnels**, of capacity 100 ml and 250 ml.
- 6.1.3.8 **Glass chromatography column**.
- 6.1.3.9 **Conical tubes**, of 10 ml capacity.
- 6.1.3.10 **Extraction thimbles**, pre-extracted with methanol.
- 6.1.3.11 **Laboratory refrigerator**, capable of cooling to less than 4 °C or **freezer**, capable of cooling to less than -15 °C.
- 6.1.3.12 **Bumping granules**, solvent extract.
- 6.1.3.13 **Oven**, capable of maintaining 500 °C.

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**6.1.3.14 High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) system**, consisting of constant-flow pumps adjusted with gradient controller, an injector capable of injecting sample volumes up to 20 µl, a means of controlling the column temperature within the range 29 °C to 40 °C ± 1 °C, a fluorescence detector with programmable excitation and emission wavelengths and a UV detector adjusted to a wavelength of 229 nm, and accessories including column supplies, recorders and gases.

**6.1.3.15 HPLC separation column**, of glass or stainless steel [20 mm to 250 mm long and 3 mm to 4,6 mm internal diameter (ID)], based on silica, derivatized with C18 alkyl chains, of particle size 3 µm to 5 µm.

**6.1.3.16 HPLC guard column**, stainless steel column for use in reversed phase chromatography (10 mm long by 2 mm ID, screen mesh < 1 µm, frit 0,5 µm) or other suitable columns.

Guard columns should always be used, because sample and eluent contamination can result in excessive column pressures leading to altered selectivity.

**6.1.3.17 Degassing system for HPLC, helium**

Eluents should be degassed to avoid quenching of the fluorescence signal.

**6.1.3.18 Filtration system**, including filter of pore size 45 µm for filtration of mobile phase.

**6.1.3.19 Syringes**, 10 µl, 25 µl, 50 µl, 100 µl, 250 µl, 500 µl and 1 000 µl for preparing calibration, reference standard and spiking solutions.

## 6.1.4 Sample preparation

### 6.1.4.1 Storage conditions of samples

Owing to possible reactions of PAH with light and components present in air, all sampling parts containing PAH should be stored until required for laboratory preparation, in sealed containers protected from light and at temperatures either between 0 °C to 4 °C or below -15 °C. Samples stored between 0 °C to 4 °C shall be extracted within one week after sampling has been completed. If samples are stored at a temperature of -15 °C or below, extraction shall take place within one month. Any condensate shall be acidified with hydrochloric acid to pH ≈ 2, and may then be stored for up to 14 days.

### 6.1.4.2 Extraction of filters and solid sorbents

Remove the filter and solid sorbents from their sealed containers and place in the pre-extracted Soxhlet thimble. Immediately prior to extraction add 500 µl of the recovery standard, 2- or 6-methylchrysene (6.1.2.8) in acetonitrile (mass concentration of ≈ 1 µg/ml), to the sorbent or filter in order to determine the recovery of the extraction procedure. If separate analyses of the sorbent and filter are required, both shall be spiked.

Carry out the extraction with 10 % diethyl ether (6.1.2.5) in n-hexane (6.1.2.2) for approximately 20 h, at a reflux rate of 4 cycles per hour.

Add the recovery standard to all related samples, including field and method blanks.

Alternatively, other extraction techniques (e.g. ASE) or other solvents or solvent mixtures may be used if validated by the user.

### 6.1.4.3 Extraction of condensate

Transfer the condensate into the separation funnel. Rinse the impingers or condensate flasks with n-hexane (6.1.2.2) and transfer the n-hexane to the separation funnel. Shake for at least 5 min. Allow to settle and then separate the n-hexane from the condensate. Carry out a further extraction on the condensate under the same conditions and combine the n-hexane fractions. Dry the combined n-hexane fractions over sodium sulfate (6.1.2.7).