
**Workplace atmospheres — Determination
of inorganic acids by ion
chromatography —**

**Part 1:
Non-volatile acids (sulfuric acid and
phosphoric acid)**

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*Air des lieux de travail — Détermination des acides inorganiques par
chromatographie ionique —*

Partie 1: Acides non volatils (acide sulfurique et acide phosphorique)

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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 21438-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Workplace atmospheres*.

ISO 21438 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Workplace atmospheres — Determination of inorganic acids by ion chromatography*: **(standards.iteh.ai)**

— *Part 1: Non-volatile acids (sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid)*

The following parts are under preparation.

— *Part 2: Volatile acids, except hydrofluoric acid (hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid and nitric acid)*

— *Part 3: Hydrofluoric acid and particulate fluorides*

Introduction

The health of workers in many industries is at risk through exposure by inhalation of particulate acids like sulfuric acid or phosphoric acid compounds. Industrial hygienists and other public health professionals need to determine the effectiveness of measures taken to control workers' exposure, and this is generally achieved by making workplace air measurements. This part of ISO 21438 has been published in order to make available a method for making valid exposure measurements for particulate acids in use in industry. It will be of benefit to: agencies concerned with health and safety at work; industrial hygienists and other public health professionals; analytical laboratories; and industrial users of sulfuric and phosphoric acids, and their workers.

It has been assumed in the drafting of ISO 21438 (all parts) that the execution of its provisions and the interpretation of the results obtained are entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people.

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Workplace atmospheres — Determination of inorganic acids by ion chromatography —

Part 1: Non-volatile acids (sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid)

1 Scope

This part of ISO 21438 specifies a method for the determination of the time-weighted average mass concentration of sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid in workplace air by ion chromatography.

The method is applicable to the personal sampling of the inhalable fraction of airborne particles, as defined in ISO 7708 and to static (area) sampling.

The analytical method is applicable to the determination of masses of 0,005 mg to 2,0 mg of sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid per sample, without dilution.

The concentration range of sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid in air for which the measuring procedure is applicable is determined by the sampling method selected by the user. For an air sample of volume 1 m³, the working range is approximately 0,005 mg m⁻³ to 2,0 mg m⁻³.

The method is not applicable to the determination of sulfur trioxide.

The procedure does not allow differentiation between the acids and their corresponding salts if both are present in the air.

The procedure does not allow differentiation between phosphoric acid and diphosphorus pentoxide (phosphoric anhydride) if both are present in the workplace.

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, *Laboratory glassware — Single volume pipettes*

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

ISO 3585, *Borosilicate glass 3.3 — Properties*

ISO 7708:1995, *Air quality — Particle size fraction definitions for health-related sampling*

ISO 8655-1, *Piston-operated volumetric apparatus — Part 1: Terminology, general requirements and user recommendations*

ISO 8655-2, *Piston-operated volumetric apparatus — Part 2: Piston pipettes*

ISO 8655-6, *Piston-operated volumetric apparatus — Part 6: Gravimetric methods for the determination of measurement error*

EN 13205, *Workplace atmospheres — Assessment of performance of instruments for measurement of airborne particle concentrations*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1 General definitions

3.1.1

chemical agent

any chemical element or compound, on its own or admixed as it occurs in the natural state or as produced, used or released including release as waste, by any work activity, whether or not produced intentionally and whether or not placed on the market

[EN 1540:1998^[1], definition 3.9]

3.1.2

breathing zone

⟨general definition⟩ space around the worker's face from where he or she takes his or her breath

3.1.3

breathing zone

⟨technical definition⟩ hemisphere (generally accepted to be 0,3 m in radius) extending in front of the human face, centred on the mid point of a line joining the ears; the base of the hemisphere is a plane through this line, the top of the head and the larynx

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NOTE 1 The definition is not applicable when respiratory protective equipment is used.

NOTE 2 Adapted from EN 1540:1998^[1], definition 3.8.

3.1.4

exposure (by inhalation)

situation in which a chemical agent is present in air which is inhaled by a person

3.1.5

measuring procedure

procedure for sampling and analysing one or more chemical agents in the air and including storage and transportation of the sample

3.1.6

operating time

period during which a sampling pump can be operated at specified flow rate and back pressure without recharging or replacing the battery

[EN 1232:1997^[2], definition 3.36]

3.1.7

time-weighted average concentration

TWA concentration

concentration of a chemical agent in the atmosphere, averaged over the reference period

NOTE More detailed discussion of TWA concentrations is available in Reference [3].

3.1.8**limit value**

reference figure for concentration of a chemical agent in air

NOTE An example is the Threshold Limit Value[®] (TLV) for a given substance in workplace air (see Reference [3]).

3.1.9**reference period**

specified period of time stated for the limit value of a specific chemical agent

NOTE Examples of limit values for different reference periods are short-term and long-term exposure limits (see Reference [3]).

3.1.10**workplace**

defined area or areas in which the work activities are carried out

[EN 1540:1998^[1], definition 3.20]

3.2 Particle size fraction definitions**3.2.1****inhalable convention**

target specification for sampling instruments when the inhalable fraction is the fraction of interest

[ISO 7708:1995, definition 2.4]

3.2.2**inhalable fraction**

mass fraction of total airborne particles which is inhaled through the nose and mouth

NOTE The inhalable fraction depends on the speed and direction of air movement, on breathing rate and other factors.

[ISO 7708:1995, definition 2.3]

3.2.3**total airborne particles**

all particles surrounded by air in a given volume of air

NOTE Because all measuring instruments are size selective to some extent, it is often impossible to measure the total airborne particle concentration.

[ISO 7708:1995, definition 2.13]

3.3 Sampling definitions**3.3.1****personal sampler**

device attached to a person that samples air in the breathing zone

[EN 1540:1998^[1], definition 3.20]

3.3.2**personal sampling**

process of sampling carried out using a personal sampler

[EN 1540:1998^[1], definition 3.21]

3.3.3

sampling instrument sampler

a device for collecting airborne particles

NOTE This definition is formulated for the purposes of this part of ISO 21438.

EXAMPLES Instruments used to collect airborne particles include sampling heads, filter holders, filter cassettes, etc.

3.3.4

static sampling area sampling

process of air sampling carried out in a particular location

3.4 Analytical definitions

3.4.1

blank solution

solution prepared by taking a reagent blank, laboratory blank or field blank through the same procedure used for sample dissolution

3.4.2

calibration blank solution

calibration solution prepared without the addition of any working standard solution

NOTE The concentration of sulfate and phosphate in the calibration blank solution is taken to be zero.

3.4.3

calibration solution

solution prepared by dilution of the working standard solution, containing sulfate and phosphate at concentrations that are suitable for use in calibration of the analytical instrument

3.4.4

extraction solution

solvent or solution used to solubilise the analyte(s) of interest

3.4.5

field blank

filter that is taken through the same handling procedure as a sample, except that it is not used for sampling, i.e. it is loaded into a sampler, transported to the sampling site and then returned to the laboratory for analysis

3.4.6

laboratory blank

unused filter, taken from the same batch used for sampling, that does not leave the laboratory

3.4.7

linear dynamic range

range of concentrations over which the calibration curve for sulfate or phosphate is linear

NOTE The linear dynamic range extends from the detection limit to the onset of calibration curvature.

3.4.8

reagent blank

all reagents used in sample dissolution, in the same quantities used for preparation of laboratory blank, field blank, and sample solutions

3.4.9**sample dissolution**

process of obtaining a solution containing sulfate and phosphate from a sample, which might or might not involve complete dissolution of the sample

3.4.10**sample preparation**

all operations carried out on a sample, after transportation and storage, to prepare it for analysis, including transformation of the sample into a measurable state, where necessary

3.4.11**sample solution**

solution prepared from a sample by the process of sample dissolution

NOTE A sample solution might need to be subjected to further operations, e.g. dilution, in order to produce a test solution that is ready for analysis.

3.4.12**stock standard solution**

solution, used for preparation of the calibration solutions, containing sulfate and/or phosphate at a certified concentration that is traceable to national standards

3.4.13**test solution**

blank solution or sample solution that has been subjected to all operations required to bring it into a state in which it is ready for analysis, e.g. dilution

NOTE The blank test solution is the blank solution and the sample test solution is the sample solution if these solutions are not subjected to any further operations before analysis.

3.4.14**working standard solution**

solution, prepared by dilution of the stock standard solution(s), that contains sulfate and phosphate at concentrations that are better suited to preparation of calibration solutions than the concentration of sulfate and phosphate in the stock standard solutions

3.5 Statistical terms**3.5.1****analytical recovery**

ratio of the mass of analyte measured when a sample is analysed to the known mass of analyte in that sample, expressed as a percentage

3.5.2**bias**

consistent deviation of the results of a measurement process from the true value of the air quality characteristic itself

3.5.3**coverage factor**

k

numerical factor used as a multiplier of the combined standard uncertainty in order to obtain an expanded uncertainty

NOTE A coverage factor, k , is typically in the range 2 to 3.

[ISO Guide 98:1995^[4], definition 2.3.6]

**3.5.4
combined standard uncertainty**

u_c
standard uncertainty of the result of measurement when that result is obtained from the values of a number of other quantities, equal to the positive square root of a sum of terms, the terms being the variances or covariances of these other quantities weighted according to how the measurement result varies with changes in these quantities

[ISO Guide 98:1995^[4], definition 2.3.4]

**3.5.5
expanded uncertainty**

quantity defining an interval about a result of a measurement that may be expected to encompass a large fraction of the distribution of values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurand

[ISO Guide 98:1995^[4], definition 2.3.5]

**3.5.6
precision**

closeness of agreement of results obtained by applying the method several times under prescribed conditions

**3.5.7
true value**

value which characterises a quantity perfectly defined in the conditions which exist when that quantity is considered

NOTE The true value of a quantity is a theoretical concept and, in general, cannot be known exactly.

**3.5.8
uncertainty (of measurement)**

parameter associated with the result of a measurement that characterises the dispersion of the values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurand

NOTE 1 The parameter may be, for example, a standard deviation (or a given multiple of it), or the width of a confidence interval.

NOTE 2 Uncertainty of measurement comprises, in general, many components. Some of these components may be evaluated from the statistical distribution of the results of a series of measurements, and can be characterised by standard deviations. The other components, which can also be characterised by standard deviations, are evaluated from assumed probability distributions based on experience or other information. ISO Guide 98:1995^[4] refers to these different cases as Type A and Type B evaluations of uncertainty, respectively.

NOTE 3 Adapted from ISO Guide 99:1996^[5], definition 3.9.

4 Principle

4.1 A known volume of air is drawn through a filter to collect acid mist. The filter is mounted in a sampler designed to collect the inhalable fraction of airborne particles (see 7.1.1).

4.2 The collected sample is then treated with water (6.1) or eluent (see 10.1.1), without heating, to extract sulfuric and phosphoric acids.

4.3 Aliquots of the sample solution are subjected to ion chromatography in order to separate the extracted sulfate and/or phosphate from other anions. Following this separation, the anions are measured using a conductivity detector.