
**Aluminium oxide primarily used for
production of aluminium — Method for
calculating the Al_2O_3 content of smelter-
grade alumina**

*Oxyde d'aluminium principalement utilisé pour la production
d'aluminium — Méthode de calcul de la teneur en Al_2O_3 de l'alumine
pour électrolyse*

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Foreword

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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 12315 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 226, *Materials for the production of primary aluminium*.

This International Standard is based on AS 2879.11, *Alumina — Guide to reporting Al_2O_3 content of smelter-grade alumina*, prepared by the Standards Australia Committee MN/9, *Alumina and Materials Used in Aluminium Production*.

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Aluminium oxide primarily used for production of aluminium — Method for calculating the Al_2O_3 content of smelter-grade alumina

1 Scope

This International Standard describes methods for calculating and reporting the Al_2O_3 content of smelter-grade alumina, on either a dry or ignited basis, from the results of the determinations in accordance with ISO 806 and AS 2879.7.

NOTE Typical values of a smelter-grade alumina, if reported on a dry basis, would be in the range of 98,5 % to 98,9 % and, if reported on an ignited basis, would be in the range of 99,4 % to 99,7 % mass fraction.

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 806, *Aluminium oxide primarily used for the production of aluminium — Determination of loss of mass at 300 °C and 1 000 °C*

AS 2879.7, *Alumina — Determination of trace elements — Wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometric method*¹⁾

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3 Principle

From the determination of trace elements in accordance with AS 2879.7, where the elements are determined on an undried (“as-received” basis) by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry analysis, and the loss of mass at 300 °C and 1 000 °C is determined in accordance with ISO 806, the proportion by mass is calculated and expressed as a percentage.

The Al_2O_3 content of alumina, expressed as a percentage (mass fraction), is calculated by subtracting the percentage of trace elements from the total, expressed as 100 %. The Al_2O_3 content of alumina can be expressed on a dried basis or an ignited basis.

The dried basis method eliminates the effect of loss of mass after heating to 300 °C, under defined conditions. The ignited basis method eliminates the loss of mass after heating to 1 000 °C, under defined conditions.

Sulfur (S) shall be determined and included as its oxide, SO_2 , in the sum of impurities term, ΣI , if the alumina is derived from heavy-fuel-oil calcination. Sulfur from this source is largely present as adsorbed SO_2 . There is no standard method for determining sulfur in alumina.

1) To be replaced by ISO 23201, *Aluminium oxide primarily used for production of aluminium — Determination of trace elements — Wavelength dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectrometric method* (under preparation).

NOTE 1 By industry convention, these mass losses are often referred to as “moisture on ignition (MOI)” and “loss on ignition (LOI)”, respectively.

NOTE 2 When sulfur is determined, it is traditionally reported as SO₃, not SO₂.

4 Procedures

The determinations shall be as follows.

- Determine the impurities according to AS 2879.7.
- Determine the loss of mass at 300 °C (moisture content, MOI) and loss of mass on ignition at 1 000 °C (LOI) (on a dry or “as-received” basis) in accordance with ISO 806.
- Determine the sulfur, reported as SO₃, if the alumina is derived from heavy-fuel-oil calcination.

5 Calculations and expression of results

Calculate and express the results as follows:

- Al₂O₃ content determined on an ignited at 1 000 °C basis:

- for loss on ignition of alumina determined on a dried at 300 °C basis, the Al₂O₃ content, expressed as a percentage, is calculated using Equation (1).

$$w_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3, 1\,000, \text{d}} = 100 - \frac{100}{100 - w_{300} - w_{\Delta 1\,000, \text{d}} + \frac{w_{\Delta 1\,000, \text{d}} \times w_{300}}{100}} \times (\Sigma I) \quad (1)$$

where

$w_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3, 1\,000, \text{d}}$ is the Al₂O₃ content determined on an ignited at 1 000 °C basis, expressed as a percentage;

w_{300} is the loss of mass at 300 °C, expressed as a percentage;

$w_{\Delta 1\,000, \text{d}}$ is the loss of mass on ignition (300 °C to 1 000 °C), expressed on a dried at 300 °C basis;

ΣI is the sum of trace elements determined in accordance with AS 2879.7. SO₃ shall be included in this sum, if required.

- for loss on ignition of alumina determined on an “as-received” basis calculate the Al₂O₃ content, expressed as a percentage, using Equation (2).

$$w_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3, 1\,000, \text{ar}} = 100 - \frac{100}{(100 - w_{300} - w_{\Delta 1\,000, \text{ar}})} \times (\Sigma I) \quad (2)$$

where

$w_{\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3, 1\,000, \text{ar}}$ is the Al₂O₃ content determined on an ignited at 1 000 °C basis, expressed as a percentage;

w_{300} is the loss of mass at 300 °C, expressed as a percentage;