

## SLOVENSKI STANDARD SIST-TP ISO/TR 17276:2017

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# Kozmetika - Analizni pristop za presejalne in kvantitativne metode za težke kovine v kozmetiki

Cosmetics - Analytical approach for screening and quantification methods for heavy metals in cosmetics

## iTeh STANDARD PREVIEW

Cosmétiques - Approche analytique des méthodes de détection et de quantification des métaux lourds dans les cosmétiques

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## TECHNICAL REPORT



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## **Cosmetics** — Analytical approach for screening and quantification methods for heavy metals in cosmetics

*Cosmétiques — Approche analytique des méthodes pour l'évaluation et la quantification des métaux lourds dans les cosmétiques* 

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### Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

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## Introduction

Heavy metals occur naturally in the environment. Some heavy metals are utilized in many industries, and some in very small amount are essential minerals to life. On the other hand, heavy metals are often a concern due to their toxicity. Even for essential minerals, they can be a concern when excess amounts are ingested, or more generally, when the human exposure is too high, independently of the route of exposure.

Heavy metals are ubiquitous as they are found in nature (rocks, soil, water, amongst other sources). As such, these heavy metals can be found as impurities in raw materials, and, while not added intentionally to cosmetics, might be present as traces in finished products.<sup>[1]</sup><sup>[2]</sup>

The term "heavy metals" is widely used without a single definition. Commonly recognized heavy metals include, but are not limited to: lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, and antimony.

While it is acknowledged that heavy metal traces in cosmetic products are unavoidable due to the ubiquitous nature of these elements, companies have implemented numerous measures to monitor and control the amount that might be present.

This Technical Report presents the most common and typical analytical methods and tools for the detection of heavy metals in cosmetic raw materials and finished products.

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# Cosmetics — Analytical approach for screening and quantification methods for heavy metals in cosmetics

#### 1 Scope

This Technical Report introduces most common and typical analytical approaches for screening and quantification of heavy metals of general interest at both raw material and finished product level. This Technical Report covers techniques from traditional colourimetric reaction, which can be executed without expensive instrument to the high-end one, like that of inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), which allows detection of elements at  $\mu$ g/kg level. Thus, this Technical Report covers the advantages of each analytical technique so that a suitable approach can be chosen.

The intent of this Technical Report is not to set or suggest acceptable concentration limits of heavy metals in both raw materials and finished products which have to be determined by each regulatory authority.

NOTE 1 The term "heavy metals" is widely used without single definition.

NOTE 2 Elements can be specified as heavy metals by one legislation, while not by others.

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#### 2 **Principles**

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#### 2.1 Planning

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First, the approach is divided into screening and quantification of total heavy metals content. Heavy metals analysis requires not only technical knowledge and experience, but often requires expensive facilities and vigorous condition of sample preparation, especially when quantification of heavy metals content is investigated. The screening approach can contribute to identifying whether heavy metals levels should be determined using more quantitative methods.

An approach to analyse heavy metals in cosmetics products and raw materials consists of sample preparation method and detection method. Analytical testing conditions should be determined with appropriate combination of preparation method and detection method with acceptable validation data.

Sample preparation methods:

- leaching;
- digestion.

Detection tests and methods:

- colourimetric reaction;[<u>3-8</u>]
- x-ray fluorescence (XRF);
- atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS);
- inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES), which is also known as inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-AES);
- inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS).

These approaches basically do not detect a difference between organic and inorganic compounds of an element. For example, they do not detect difference between metallic mercury and a phenylmercury

compound. Also, they do not detect difference by valence state, such as, between chromium (III) and chromium (VI). If there is a specific interest in them, appropriate approaches should be taken, e.g. ICP-MS equipped with chromatography.

Typical approach for the screening and quantification on both raw materials and finished products are introduced in the <u>Annex A</u>, <u>Annex B</u>, and <u>Annex C</u>. Approaches other than introduced in the annexes can be effective.

#### 2.2 Selection of a test substance

Screening and quantification of heavy metals can be performed on both raw materials and finished products.

As heavy metals are found in nature, certain raw materials, such as, inorganic materials can naturally contain heavy metals. Knowing the source and signature of raw materials is an effective approach to control the levels of heavy metals in finished products. Monitoring at raw material level can avoid the use of heavy-metal contaminated raw materials and is an effective way to control heavy metal concentration in finished products.

#### 2.3 Preparation of samples

#### 2.3.1 General

In many elemental analysis techniques, samples are converted into liquid. The preparation of the samples is related to the nature of the cosmetic matrix. The sample preparation techniques are basically classified into two: leaching method and digestion method. (standards.iteh.ai)

#### 2.3.2 Leaching method

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Leaching method is a preparation method in order to determine an amount of heavy metals extracted from a sample under acidic conditions. The principle of the leaching method is modelling the conditions of a gastrointestinal fluid or sweat to liberate heavy metals that might be present in products. This allows estimating an amount of heavy metals to which users can be exposed.

#### 2.3.3 Digestion method

Digestion method is a preparation method in order to determine the total amount of heavy metals present in a sample. When full digestion method is used, it reliably reveals the worst case scenario of exposure. Also, full digestion of the matrix reduces interferences in the detection, especially in ICP-MS.

Samples are sometimes simply heated to ashes (dry ashing) in order to remove organic matter. Dry ashing can be carried out with magnesium nitrate as ashing aids.<sup>[9][10]</sup> Other ashing aids might be applicable such as magnesium sulfate with sulphuric acid.<sup>[8]</sup> Since cosmetic matrix is complex, insoluble matter often remains after ashing and further digestion is often conducted.

Samples are digested by heating, usually with a single acid, sometimes with multiple acids (wet digestion), rarely with alkali (fusion), in open or closed vessels and are fully or almost entirely dissolved. It often requires vigorous conditions and cautions concerning possible volatilisation for some metals (such as cadmium, arsenic, or mercury) to obtain acceptable recovery.<sup>[8]</sup>[11]

Recent trends are for closed vessel digestion with microwave assistance which can reduce losses of volatile elements and also improve efficiency in routine analysis. Choice of acids is the important factor to fully digest samples. For cosmetic products, the usage of hydrofluoric acid (HF) can be considered highly effective in digestion of silica compounds. The treatment with hydrofluoric acid needs a post-treatment with boric acid in order to mask remaining HF. Nitric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid, and other acids are also selected to digest samples. Each acid, including HF, has their own advantage and therefore often used by combination to effect full digestion. There are many publications for heavy metals analysis, including assessments of sample digestion methods. There is a digestion method recently published with inter-laboratory results for lead, cadmium, and mercury on different finished

products containing inorganic materials. This method describes a digestion process using nitric acid with hydrochloric acid in a closed vessel under high pressure heat to around 200 °C. The method specifies the detailed conditions in order to get reproducible results.<sup>[12]</sup> The study by the authority reports that analytical results obtained by nitric acid and those by nitric acid with HF, in comparison. Nitric acid digestion gave lower results than nitric acid with HF on some cosmetic products.<sup>[13]</sup> Nevertheless, if possible, it is recommended to avoid the use of hydrofluoric acid for safety and hygiene reasons, within the digestion.

#### 2.4 Detection tests and methods

#### 2.4.1 Colourimetric reaction

This technique has been described as detection test, mostly for raw materials, for heavy metals which form yellow to dark brown-coloured insoluble sulphide under pH 3,0 to 3,5 condition. Elements which can be detected by this technique are for instance, lead, bismuth, copper, cadmium, antimony, tin, and mercury.<sup>[8]</sup> The insoluble sulphide produced in the reaction shows dark colour in diluted solutions due to its colloidal dispersion. As the source of sulphide ion, either sodium sulphide or thioacetamide is normally used. The density of colour is increased in proportion to the concentration of heavy metals. The quantity of heavy metals is expressed in terms of concentration of lead, in comparison with a lead reference solution. The advantage of the technique is that it can be performed without expensive instruments. The colourimetric test is only applicable for sample solutions which are uncoloured and free from insoluble matter. Recovery should be determined in an accurate and suitable way, especially if dry-ashing is used to obtain such solutions. This technique cannot detect selenium and chromium. Also, zinc produces white precipitate which can cause interference. For this reason, it is important to confirm the reliability of the test by appropriate validation. **D FRE VIE** 

When difference in the hue of the developed colour is observed between samples solution and standard solution, other techniques should be explored.

 $\frac{SIST-TP_{ISO/TR_17276:2017}}{Applications of colourimetric tests are found in several compendiator cosmetics and pharmaceuticals [3-7]}$ NOTE such as Japanese Standards of Quasi-drug Ingredients (JSQI)<sup>[3]</sup> and European Pharmacopoeia.<sup>[4]</sup> Also, the Japanese Standards of Cosmetics Ingredients<sup>[5]</sup> and Japanese Cosmetics Ingredients Codex<sup>[6]</sup> can still be referred for actual applications, especially for English description, although they are not active compendia anymore as they have basically been consolidated to JSQI.

#### 2.4.2 X-ray fluorescence

#### 2.4.2.1 General

When a sample is irradiated with X-rays which have energy above a certain level, core electrons in atoms are excited, ejected, and then core holes are created. Subsequently, peripheral electrons fall into the created core holes and the excess energy which corresponds to the energy level difference are released as electromagnetic waves in the X-ray region called "X-ray fluorescence"<sup>[14]</sup>. Since the energy level difference is unique to each element, the emitted X-ray fluorescence is also termed a characteristic X-ray. Identification of the element is possible using these X-ray spectra and the elemental concentration in the sample can be estimated from the X-ray intensity. The advantage of this technique is that it is non-destructive analysis. Various sample forms such as solid, liquid, or powder are applicable for the measurement. The measurements are performed easily and quickly without complicated sample preparation. Complexity would be realized in quantitative or semi-quantitative analysis because this technique is matrix-dependent, and therefore, correction or appropriate validation would be required. For certain elements, sufficient sensitivity can not be obtained, particularly with portable equipment.

#### **Types of equipment** 2.4.2.2

Equipment can roughly be classified into two according to detection principles, one is the energydispersive type and the other one is wavelength-dispersive type. Each type has particular features, therefore, their advantages and disadvantages should be considered to select suitable one.