



SLOVENSKI STANDARD SIST ISO 19087:2019

01-september-2019

Zrak na delovnem mestu - Analiza respirabilnega kristaliničnega kremenca z infrardečo spektroskopijo s Fourierjevo transformacijo (FTIR)

Workplace air - Analysis of respirable crystalline silica by Fourier-Transform Infrared spectroscopy

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Air des lieux de travail - Mesure de la fraction alvéolaire de la silice cristalline par spectrométrie infrarouge
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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: ISO 19087:2018

ICS:

13.040.30 Kakovost zraka na delovnem mestu Workplace atmospheres

SIST ISO 19087:2019

en

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**Workplace air — Analysis of
respirable crystalline silica by Fourier-
Transform Infrared spectroscopy**

*Air des lieux de travail — Mesure de la fraction alvéolaire de la silice
cristalline par spectrométrie infrarouge*

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Workplace air*.

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Introduction

Respirable crystalline silica (RCS) is a hazard to the health of workers in many industries through exposure by inhalation. Industrial hygienists and other public health professionals need to determine the effectiveness of measures taken to control workers' exposure. The collection of samples of air during a work activity and then measuring the amount of respirable crystalline silica are often done to assess an individual's exposure, their respiratory protection, or the effectiveness of controls. Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) analysis of crystalline silica in a sample of respirable dust collected on a collection substrate is employed in many countries to measure and estimate exposure to RCS. FTIR is able to measure quartz and cristobalite.

This document specifies the analysis procedures for the measurement of RCS through three methods:

- a) Direct-on-filter method: a method of analysing RCS directly on the air sample filter. A specific requirement of this method is that the sampler used for the workplace measurements is the same as that used for the preparation of calibration samples.
- b) Indirect method by redeposition: a method whereby the dust is recovered from the collection substrate and deposited onto a filter for analysis.
- c) Indirect method by potassium bromide (KBr) pellet: a method whereby the dust is recovered from the collection substrate and pressed into a potassium bromide (KBr) pellet for analysis.

Many different types of sampling apparatus are used to collect respirable dust, according to the occupational hygiene convention. This document is designed to accommodate the variety of samplers and collection substrates available to analysts. This document is used in conjunction with ISO 24095 which promotes best practice for these analyses.

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Workplace air — Analysis of respirable crystalline silica by Fourier-Transform Infrared spectroscopy

1 Scope

This document is a standard for the analysis by Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) in samples of air collected on collection substrates (i.e. filters or foams). Three analytical approaches are described for whom the dust from the sample collection substrate is

- a) analysed directly on sampled filter,
- b) recovered, treated and deposited onto another filter for analysis, or
- c) recovered, treated and pressed into a potassium bromide (KBr) pellet for analysis.

This document provides information on the instrumental parameters, the sensitivity of different sampling apparatus, the use of different filters and sample treatment to remove interference. In this document the expression RCS includes the most common polymorphs quartz and cristobalite.

This document excludes the less common polymorphs of crystalline silica, such as tridymite.

Under certain circumstances (i.e. low filter dust loads, low silica content), the analytical approach described in this method cannot fulfil the expanded uncertainty requirements of ISO 20581. Guidance for calculation of uncertainty for measurements of RCS is given in ISO 24095.

2 Normative reference

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The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 7708, *Air quality — Particle size fraction definitions for health-related sampling*

ISO 13137, *Workplace atmospheres — Pumps for personal sampling of chemical and biological agents — Requirements and test methods*

EN 13205, *Workplace exposure — Assessment of sampler performance for measurement of airborne particle concentrations*

ISO 15767, *Workplace atmospheres — Controlling and characterizing uncertainty in weighing collected aerosols*

ISO 18158, *Workplace air — Terminology*

ISO 24095, *Workplace air — Guidance for the measurement of respirable crystalline silica*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 18158 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

ISO 19087:2018(E)**3.1 General definitions****3.1.1****respirable crystalline silica****RCS**

inhaled particles of crystalline silica that penetrate into the unciliated airways according to the respirable convention described in ISO 7708

3.2 Sampling definitions**3.2.1****analysis filter**

suitable filter used to carry out the RCS analysis

Note 1 to entry: For direct-on-filter FTIR analysis the collection substrate is the analysis filter.

Note 2 to entry: For the indirect analysis the dust is removed from the collection substrate and redeposited onto an analysis filter.

3.2.2**collection substrate**

medium on which airborne chemical and/or biological agents are collected for subsequent analysis

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of this document, filters, polyurethane foams and sampling cassettes are examples of collection substrates for airborne particles.

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4 Principle

This document provides three Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) analytical approaches for the analysis of RCS in respirable dust collected on a sample collection substrate.

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a) Direct-on-filter method:

The respirable dust on the collection substrate (usually a 25 mm diameter filter) is measured without transferring the dust to an analysis filter. The mass of RCS is determined from the FTIR response, calibrated against filters loaded with known amounts of RCS reference material.

b) Indirect method (redeposition):

The dust from the sample collection substrate (i.e. a 37 mm diameter filter or a polyurethane foam) is recovered, treated and deposited on another analysis filter (usually 25 mm diameter or smaller) for analysis by the instrument. The instrument is calibrated by preparing test samples from aliquots of a suspension of a reference material. The mass of RCS is determined from the FTIR response, calibrated against analysis filters loaded with known amounts of RCS reference material.

c) Indirect method (KBr pellet):

The dust from the sample collection substrate (i.e. a 37 mm diameter filter or a polyurethane foam) is recovered, treated and pressed into a KBr pellet for analysis by the instrument. The instrument is calibrated by preparing KBr pellets with known amounts of a reference material. The mass of RCS is determined from the FTIR response, calibrated against pellets loaded with known amounts of RCS reference material.

Since the volume of air sampled is known, the concentration of RCS in the air is readily calculated. Because the different aerosol samplers for respirable dust deposit the sample over the surface of the filter in different ways, the FTIR instruments used for the direct-on-filter analysis approach shall be calibrated for the aerosol sampler used to collect the samples.

The suitability of FTIR to determine the RCS concentration in a workplace sample depends on the composition of the dust and potential interferences. If the FTIR method to subtract a reference spectrum from the sample spectrum (refer to [9.3.2](#)) does not lead to a satisfactory baseline profile, then

the FTIR method is not suitable for the matrix and quantitative FTIR analysis cannot be carried out. As an alternative XRD analytical method should be used. Qualitative X-ray diffraction (XRD) analysis can be carried out prior to FTIR analysis to obtain information about the sample.

5 Apparatus, equipment and reagents

5.1 Sampling equipment

5.1.1 Samplers.

5.1.1.1 The particle size-selection performance of the samplers used shall match the criteria for respirable dust as specified in ISO 7708 according to the test protocol in EN 13205-2.

5.1.1.2 Samplers using a filter or foam pad are suitable for this method.

NOTE [Annex B](#) provides information on the performance of different personal respirable samplers that are currently in use.

NOTE Foam pads and silver membrane filters are not suitable for direct-on-filter method.

5.1.1.3 Cassettes holding filters shall be made of conductive material.

5.1.1.4 Each sampler should be labelled with a unique number, in order to identify samplers that start to underperform after long-term use.

5.1.1.5 Samplers (sampling train) shall comply with the requirements for calibration in ISO 13137.

NOTE In some countries there can be exceptions due to national regulations.

5.1.2 Collection substrates and analysis filters.

5.1.2.1 Filters as collection substrates shall be of a diameter suitable for use in the selected sampler and have a capture efficiency for respirable particles as specified in ISO 24095.

5.1.2.2 It is important for the analyst to know the composition of the collection substrate used to collect the sample since it has a direct bearing on the analytical approach used. The collection substrates generally used for the sampling of RCS, and their characteristics, are listed in [Annex D](#).

NOTE Additional information about choice of filter material for quartz measurement in coal mine dust can be found in Reference [\[24\]](#).

5.1.2.3 Filter materials listed in [Annex D](#) generally do not contain compounds that interfere with the measurement of quartz and cristobalite. Impurities can be introduced during the filter manufacturing process and background absorbance can increase depending on filter material. Therefore, batches of filters should be regularly tested to detect potential interferences and background levels.

5.1.2.4 Variable background has an effect on the readability of absorbance spectra, increasing the limit of detection for RCS. PVC and polypropylene used as analysis filters exhibit the least variability and lowest background levels and thus are useful in situations where low limits of detection are required.

5.1.2.5 Weighing, if required, should be performed following ISO 15767 (see [8.1](#)). Filters shall not be weighed in cassettes as large weight variations have been reported [\[18\]](#). Reference shall be made to the instructions of the collection substrate manufacturer.

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5.1.2.7 An important property for an analysis filter is that it is transparent to infrared and provides a relatively low background variation near the absorbance for crystalline silica.

5.1.3 Sampling pumps.

Sampling pumps shall comply with the requirements of ISO 13137.

5.1.4 Flow meters.

Flow meters shall comply with the requirements of ISO 13137.

5.1.5 Other equipment required.

Other equipment required for sampling includes the following:

- a) belts or harnesses to which the sampling pumps can conveniently be fixed;
- b) flexible tubing, to connect the sampler to the sampling pump;
- c) a means to transport the samples from the workplace to the laboratory, which minimises the possibility of accidental transfers of collected dust to or from the collection substrate (filter or foam). Transportation will usually require caps or covers for the samplers, filter cassettes or other substrates, as detailed in the manufacturer's instructions for use of the instruments;
- d) a thermometer (readable to 1 °C) and a barometer (readable to 0.1 kPa), to measure atmospheric temperature and pressure for flow rate correction, when the temperature and pressure at the time of use differ from the conditions under which the flow meter was calibrated (ISO 24095).

5.2 Equipment for calibration

5.2.1 Dust cloud generator (needed for direct-on-filter analysis).

A device to generate atmospheres of reference material and contain them is needed when following the direct-on-filter analytical approach. An example of such a device is given in [Figure 1](#). This device is constructed from borosilicate glass with a lid made from acrylic glass. An aerosol of dust is generated into the upper cylindrical chamber by applying a short burst of pressurized air to a dust contained in a bowl at the bottom. Sampling equipment shall be prepared following [6.1.1](#) to [6.1.6](#) and [6.1.9](#). Samplers are fitted at the top of the device. To avoid agglomerations and charge interactions between the dust and the filter inside the aerosol sampler it is recommended that the device be earthed (grounded).

NOTE An Aerosol generation device can also be useful for preparing samples for indirect FTIR methods.