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Hrana rastlinskega izvora - Multirezidualna metoda za določanje ostankov pesticidov v rastlinskih oljih z LC-MS/MS (QuOil)

Foods of plant origin - Multimethod for the determination of pesticide residues in vegetable oils by LC-MS/MS (QuOil)

Pflanzliche Lebensmittel - Multiverfahren zur Bestimmung von Pestizidrückständen in pflanzlichen Ölen mit LC-MS/MS (QuOil)

Aliments d'origine végétale - Multiméthode de détermination des résidus de pesticides dans les huiles végétales par CL-SM/SM (QuOil)

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English Version

**Foods of plant origin - Multimethod for the determination
of pesticide residues in vegetable oils by LC-MS/MS
(QuOil)**

Aliments d'origine végétale - Multiméthode de
détermination des résidus de pesticides dans les huiles
végétales par CL-SM/SM (QuOil)

Pflanzliche Lebensmittel - Multiverfahren zur
Bestimmung von Pestizidrückständen in pflanzlichen
Ölen mit LC-MS/MS (QuOil)

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 14 July 2019 for provisional application.

The period of validity of this CEN/TS is limited initially to three years. After two years the members of CEN will be requested to submit their comments, particularly on the question whether the CEN/TS can be converted into a European Standard.

CEN members are required to announce the existence of this CEN/TS in the same way as for an EN and to make the CEN/TS available promptly at national level in an appropriate form. It is permissible to keep conflicting national standards in force (in parallel to the CEN/TS) until the final decision about the possible conversion of the CEN/TS into an EN is reached.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
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Contents	Page
European foreword.....	3
1 Scope	4
2 Normative references	4
3 Terms and definitions	4
4 Principle	4
5 Reagents	4
6 Apparatus	7
7 Procedure	8
7.1 Extraction	8
7.2 Clean-up	8
7.3 Determination by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)	9
8 Evaluation of results	9
8.1 Identification and quantification	9
8.2 Calculation of residue concentrations using the internal standard	10
8.3 Calculation of residue concentrations without internal standards	10
8.4 Calculation of residue concentration using the standard additions approach	10
9 Precision	10
10 Test report	11
Annex A (informative) Examples of experimental conditions	12
Annex B (informative) Precision data and recovery	15
Annex C (informative) Scheme of procedure (for 2 g of sample)	24
Annex D (informative) Recovery studies	25
Annex E (informative) Abbreviations	26
Bibliography	28

European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17062:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 275 “Food analysis - Horizontal methods”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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This document will supersede CEN/TS 17062:2017.

Compared to CEN/TS 17062:2017, the following changes have been made:

- Annex E (informative) containing a list of abbreviations was added;
- The document has been editorially revised.
- Annex E (informative) contains a list of abbreviations.

WARNING — The application of this Technical Specification may involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This Technical Specification does not claim to address all the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this Technical Specification to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

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CEN/TS 17062:2019 (E)

1 Scope

This Technical Specification describes a method for the analysis of pesticide residues in fatty oils of plant origin (essential oils are excluded). It has been validated in an interlaboratory test with olive oil. However, laboratory experiences have shown that this method is also applicable to other kinds of oils such as sunflower seed oil, sesame oil, flax seed oil, rape seed oil, grape seed oil, thistle oil and pumpkin seed oil.

2 Normative references

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.

CEN/TS 17061:2019, *Foodstuffs — Guideline for the calibration and quantitative determination of chromatographic methods for the determination of pesticide residues and organic contaminants*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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

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

4 Principle

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The homogeneous sample is extracted with acetonitrile. After centrifugation, an aliquot of the organic phase is cleaned-up by dispersive solid phase extraction (D-SPE; sorbents PSA and C18). To separate co-extracted fat a freeze-out step of the acetonitrile phase can be applied. After clean up an additional centrifugation step is performed. The extracts are acidified by adding a small amount of formic acid, to improve the storage stability of certain base-sensitive pesticides. The final extract can be directly used for LC-MS/MS analysis. A scheme of the procedure is given in Annex C.

NOTE In contrast to the method described in EN 15662 [1], this procedure does not include any addition of water.

5 Reagents

Unless otherwise specified, use reagents of recognized analytical grade. Take every precaution to avoid possible contamination of water, solvents, sorbents, inorganic salts, etc.

5.1 Water, HPLC quality.

5.2 Acetonitrile, HPLC quality.

5.3 Methanol, HPLC quality.

5.4 Acetic acid.

5.5 Ammonium formate.

5.6 Formic acid solution in acetonitrile, volume concentration $\sigma = 5$ ml formic acid/100 ml :

Dilute 5 ml of formic acid (mass fraction $w \geq 95\%$) to 100 ml with acetonitrile (5.2).

5.7 Primary secondary amin sorbent (PSA), e.g. Bondesil-PSA[®] 40 μm Agilent No. 12213023¹⁾.

Other amino sorbents may be used, but investigations may be necessary to prove equivalency especially regarding analyte losses and pH value of the end extracts.

5.8 C-18-sorbent (Octadecyl-silyl-modified silica gel), Bulk material 50 μm .

5.9 Internal standard and quality control standard solutions in acetonitrile, mass concentration $\rho = 10\ \mu\text{g/ml}$ to 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

Table 1 shows a list of potential internal standards (ISTDs) and quality control (QC) standards that may be used in this method.

Table 1 — Potential internal standards (ISTDs) or quality control (QC) standards

Compound	Log P (octanol-water partition coefficient)	Suggested concentration C_{ISTD} [$\mu\text{g/ml}$]	MS/MS ESI (+)	MS/MS ESI (-)
Tris-(1,3-dichlorisopropyl)- phosphate	3,65	10	+++	+
Linuron-D6	3,00	10	++	-
Carbofuran-D3	1,80	10	++	-
Chlorpyrifos-D10	4,70	10	+++	-
Bis-nitrophenyl urea (Nicarbazin)	3,76	10	-	+++
+++	very good detectable			
++	good detectable			
+	poor detectable			
-	not detectable			

5.10 Primary pesticide standards

Use standards of known purity, only.

¹⁾ Bondesil-PSA[®] is a product supplied by Agilent. This information is given for the convenience of users of this European Technical Specification and does not constitute an endorsement by CEN of the product named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

CEN/TS 17062:2019 (E)

5.11 Pesticide stock solutions

Prepare individual stock solutions of analytical standards at concentrations that are sufficient to allow the preparation of complex pesticide working solutions that are used for the preparation of standard solutions.

Usually, store stock solutions at ≤ -18 °C. Check the stability of stock solutions during storage regularly [2]. In some cases the addition of acids or bases can be helpful to enhance stability and extend the acceptable storage period. Before withdrawing any aliquot from this solution redissolve any precipitation that may have occurred.

5.12 Pesticide working solutions

Because of the broad applicability of this method and due to the partly divergent pH-stability of pesticides, more than one working solution each containing one or more pesticides can be needed to cover the entire pesticide spectrum of interest. These are prepared by mixing together defined volumes of the required pesticide stock solutions (5.11) and appropriately diluting them with acetonitrile. The pesticide concentrations in these mixtures should be sufficient to allow the preparation of the required matrix matched standards (5.13.2) with moderate dilution of the blank sample extract (e.g. less than 20 %).

Usually, pesticide working solutions should be stored at low temperature in the dark. Check the stability of pesticides contained in these mixtures during storage regularly [2] and adapt the storing conditions accordingly. In some cases the addition of acids or bases can be helpful to enhance stability and extend acceptable storage times.

5.13 Standard solutions (calibration mixtures)

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5.13.1 Solvent-based standards

Prepare solvent-based standards by mixing known volumes of the pesticide working solutions (5.12) and make up to volume with acetonitrile. The preparation of solvent based calibration mixtures with different analyte concentrations (ρ_A^{cal}) and identical internal standard concentrations ($\rho_{\text{ISTD}}^{\text{cal}}$) is necessary to create a calibration graph.

The concentration of the internal standards in the calibration mixtures ($\rho_{\text{ISTD}}^{\text{cal}}$) shall be equivalent to the concentration of the internal standard in the sample extracts, as the internal standards are added after extraction. The quotient $V_{\text{ISTD}}^{\text{cal}} / V_{\text{Std}}$ from the volume ($V_{\text{ISTD}}^{\text{cal}}$) of the internal standard (5.9) and the final volume of the calibration standards (V_{Std}) shall be equivalent to the quotient $V_{\text{ISTD}} / V_{\text{Aliquot}}$ (see 7.1). If 60 μl ISTD solution (5.9) are added to 6 ml of aliquot of the centrifugate, 6 ml of standard solution shall be spiked with 60 μl of ISTD solution. If other volumes of calibration standards are used, the addition of ISTD solution shall be adjusted.

NOTE A pesticide concentration of 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ correlates to a residue level of 5 mg/kg when a 2 g test portion is employed.

5.13.2 Matrix-matched standards

Prepare matrix-matched standards in the same way as solvent-based standards, however, instead of pure acetonitrile use extracts of blank samples (samples, where no pesticides have been found with this method). The extract is prepared as described in Clause 7 (but without ISTD addition). To minimize errors caused by matrix induced effects during chromatography, it is best to choose similar commodities (e.g. olive oil for olive oil samples etc.).

The stability of pesticides in matrix-matched standards can be lower than that of standards in pure acetonitrile and has to be checked more thoroughly.

5.14 Mobile phase A1

Ammonium formate solution in water for HPLC, $\rho = 0,315$ g ammonium formate / 1 000 ml, substance concentration $c = 5$ mmol/l.

5.15 Mobile phase B1

Ammonium formate solution in methanol for HPLC, $\rho = 0,315$ g ammonium formate / 1 000 ml, $c = 5$ mmol/l.

5.16 Mobile phase A2

Acetic acid solution in water, add 0,1 ml of glacial acetic acid to 1 000 ml of water.

5.17 Mobile phase B2

Acetic acid solution in acetonitrile, add 0,1 ml of glacial acetic acid to 1 000 ml of acetonitrile.

5.18 Mobile phase A3

Methanol/water 2+8 (V/V) with 5 mmol/l ammonium formate, $\rho = 0,315$ g ammonium formate / 1 000 ml.

5.19 Mobile phase B3

Methanol/water 9+1 (V/V) with 5 mmol/l ammonium formate, $\rho = 0,315$ g ammonium formate / 1 000 ml.

5.20 Cotton wool.

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6 Apparatus

Usual laboratory apparatus and, in particular, the following:

6.1 Automatic pipettes, suitable for handling volumes of 10 μ l to 100 μ l, 200 μ l to 1 000 μ l and 2 ml to 10 ml.

NOTE Instead of the latter, 10 ml graduated glass pipettes can be used alternatively.

6.2 Single use centrifuge tubes with screw caps, 50 ml

EXAMPLES

- a) 50 ml centrifuge tubes made of poly-tetrafluoroethylene with screw caps; or
- b) disposable 50 ml polypropylene centrifuge tubes with screw caps.

6.3 Polypropylene-single use tubes with screw caps, 10 ml or 12 ml

6.4 Centrifuges, suitable for the centrifuge tubes employed in the procedure (7.2.2 and 7.2.3) and capable of achieving at least 1 000 g .

6.5 10 ml solvent-dispenser for acetonitrile, for use with the acetonitrile reservoir bottle.

6.6 Injection vials, 1,5 ml, suitable for LC autosampler, if necessary with micro-inserts.

CEN/TS 17062:2019 (E)

6.7 Vibration device, e.g. Vortex (used for recovery studies).

6.8 Freezer, $> 60 \text{ l}$, $\leq -18 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

6.9 LC-MS/MS system, equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI) interface (see Annex A).

7 Procedure

7.1 Extraction

Transfer a representative test portion of 2 g (m_{Sample}) of the homogenous sample into a 50 ml centrifuge tube (6.2) [4]. Add 10 ml of acetonitrile (5.2) (V_{EX}). Close the tube and shake vigorously for 1 min . Centrifuge for 5 min with at least $1\,000 \text{ g}$ for better separation of the phases.

Transfer an aliquot of the acetonitrile phase V_{Aliquot} (e.g. 6 ml extract) into a tube with screw cap (6.3). Add a defined volume (V_{ISTD}) of the ISTD solution (5.9). The volume corresponds to 1% of the aliquot volume (e.g. $60 \mu\text{l}$ ISTD solution to 6 ml acetonitrile phase).

7.2 Clean-up

7.2.1 General

The two different clean-up methods described in 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 were successfully validated and may be used alternatively.

7.2.2 Clean-up with amino-sorbent and silica-based reversed phase sorbent

Transfer an aliquot of 4 ml of the acetonitrile phase (7.1) into a Polypropylene-single use tube (6.3) already containing 100 mg of PSA (5.7) and 100 mg of C18 sorbent (5.8). Close the tube, shake vigorously for 30 s and centrifuge (5 min at $\geq 1\,000 \text{ g}$). Immediately isolate and acidify the clear extract as described in 7.2.4.

In case residues with acetic groups (e.g. phenoxy carboxylic acids) shall be determined, a second aliquot of the centrifuged extract from 7.1 is filled into an injection vial and analysed directly with LC-MS/MS to avoid losses of acidic groups by PSA clean-up.

25 mg PSA and 25 mg C18 sorbent are needed per ml of extract.

7.2.3 Freezing-out of co-extracted fat and clean-up with amino-sorbent

Store an aliquot of the extract from 7.1 containing the internal standard for at least $1,5 \text{ h}$ at $\leq -18 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to freeze out most of the fat in the extract. For separation of the latter filter the extract over cotton wool (5.20). Take 4 ml from the cold and fat separated solution for dispersive SPE.

Transfer an aliquot of 4 ml of the acetonitrile phase into a Polypropylene-single use tube (6.3) already containing 100 mg of PSA (5.7). Close the tube, shake vigorously for 30 s and centrifuge (5 min at $\geq 1\,000 \text{ g}$). Immediately isolate and acidify the clear extract as described in 7.2.4.

If residues with acetic groups shall be determined, transfer a second aliquot into an injection vial and analyse directly with LC-MS/MS to avoid losses of acidic groups with PSA clean-up.

NOTE It is helpful to load the centrifuge tubes with the dispersive SPE sorbents before beginning the extraction procedure needed for one batch of samples. 25 mg PSA sorbent are needed per ml of extract.

7.2.4 Extract stabilization

Transfer an aliquot of 3 ml of the cleaned-up extract from 7.2.2 or 7.2.3 into a screw cap storage vial (6.3), taking care to avoid sorbent particles of being carried over, and slightly acidify by adding $30 \mu\text{l}$ of

a 5 % formic acid solution in acetonitrile (5.6). Transfer the pH-adjusted extract into auto-sampler vials and use it for liquid chromatographic analysis. Store the residual extract in a refrigerator to be used if necessary.

For 1 ml extract 10 µl of the formic acid solution (5.6) are necessary.

7.3 Determination by liquid chromatography with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS)

Inject the sample extracts derived from 7.2.2 to 7.2.4 and standard solutions (5.13) into the LC instruments in an appropriate sequence. This may involve bracketing of the sample extracts with the calibration solutions.

The measurement may be performed using various instruments, instrument parameters and columns. Some instrument parameters and columns are listed in Annex A. These conditions have been shown to provide satisfactory results, but are provided as examples, only.

For some gradient/column combinations it is necessary to mix the extract with water or the aqueous mobile phase to achieve a sufficient separation of the analytes.

NOTE If extracts are diluted with water or aqueous mobile phases it is important to avoid that non-polar parts of the extract precipitate or emulsions occur. This could lead to losses of lipophilic analytes. In this case an injection applying an injector programme can be helpful (see A.4).

The chromatographic conditions as outlined in Annex A have been shown to be satisfactory.

Suitable experimental conditions of LC-MS/MS measurements are outlined in CEN/TR 15641 [3]. Nevertheless, individual tuning of the compounds on the instrument that is used for measurement usually provides better sensitivities.

8 Evaluation of results

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8.1 Identification and quantification

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For the identification of residues in the final extract, use relative retention time ratio against the ISTD ($Rt_{(A)}/Rt_{(ISTD)}$) obtained from the same run. Check positive results by comparing the intensity ratios between the SIM masses (m/z) or SRM transitions of the analyte. The expected intensity ratios can be determined with the standard solutions. If the ratios of the samples and the standards have a variation of more than 30 %, the rules of EU Quality Control Procedures will be followed [2]. According to these procedures positive results shall be ensured by using additional measures, e.g. additional SIM masses or SRM transitions or other chromatographic conditions (column, eluents).

For calibration and for checking the linearity of detection of each substance, plot the peak area ratio or peak height ratio of pesticide and internal standard $y_A^{cal} / y_{ISTD}^{cal}$ (if an internal standard is used) versus the concentration ratio of the analyte against the ISTD ($\rho_A^{cal} / \rho_{ISTD}^{cal}$) in the standard solution (5.13). If no internal standards are used, plot the peak areas or peak height y_A^{cal} against the concentration of the analyte ρ_A^{cal} .

The calibration area shall be adapted to the residue concentration and should not exceed a decimal power. Possibly more calibration graphs shall be established using the standard solution. The calibration function is selected according to CEN/TS 17061:2019, 6.2.1.

For a first estimation of the residue level or for the verification of absence of residues, solvent based standards (5.13.1) can be used. They can also be used for quantification, if it was shown that no enhancement or suppression of the analyte signal through matrix occurs. If relevant residue levels are

CEN/TS 17062:2019 (E)

observed (e.g. with possible MRL violation) matrix matched standard shall be preferred for exact quantification.

8.2 Calculation of residue concentrations using the internal standard

The determination of the concentration of the analyte ρ_A in the final extract is performed by using the measured peak area ratio or peak height ratio from pesticide and internal standard y_A / y_{ISTD} in the sample as described in CEN/TS 17061. Calculate the mass fraction w_A of the analyte in the sample, in milligram per kilogram with Formula (1):

$$w_A = \frac{\rho_A \times V_{ex}}{m_{Sample}} \quad (1)$$

where

ρ_A is the mass concentration of the analyte in the final extract, in microgram per millilitre;

V_{ex} is the volume of acetonitrile used in 7.1, in millilitre;

m_{Sample} is the mass of test portion in 7.1, in gram.

8.3 Calculation of residue concentrations without internal standards

Determine the concentration of the analyte ρ_A in the final extract by using the measured peak area or peak height from pesticide y_A in the sample as described in CEN/TS 17061:2019, 6.4.2 to 6.4.5. Calculate the mass fraction w_A of the analyte in the sample by using Formula (1).

8.4 Calculation of residue concentration using the standard additions approach

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In case of suspected violative residues, or for compounds which are known to be strongly affected by matrix-induced enhancement or suppression phenomena, standard additions are recommended provided that the function between response and concentrations at the concentration range in question is linear.

In case of the standard addition to the final extract, determine the concentration of the analyte ρ_A in the final extract using a linear regression graph of peak areas or peak height versus spiked concentrations and the volume of the applied aliquot of the final extract as described in CEN/TS 17061:2019, 6.6.1. Calculate the mass fraction w_A of the analyte in the sample by using Formula (1).

In case of standard addition to the sample, determine the mass of the analyte in the weighted sample using a linear regression graph of peak areas or peak height versus spiked analyte masses as described in CEN/TS 17061:2019, 6.6.2. The mass fraction of the analyte in the sample is the quotient of the mass of the analyte m_A in the weighted sample and the weighted sample m_{Sample} .

NOTE With the standard addition approach, the sought analyte concentration is determined using linear extrapolation. Therefore, it is important that the analyte has linear detection properties in the investigated calibration range. It can be necessary to dilute the extract to achieve the calibration range using LC-MS(/MS).

9 Precision

The method was validated in two interlaboratory tests with representative analytes. The results for LC-MS/MS validation and ongoing verification are shown in Annex B. An updated and detailed list of validation results can be found in the internet www.eurl-pesticides-datapool.eu operated by the EU