
**Natural gas — Upstream area
— Determination of hydrogen
sulfide content by laser absorption
spectroscopy**

*Gaz naturel — Zone amont — Détermination de la teneur en sulfure
d'hydrogène par spectroscopie par absorption laser*

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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).

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For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 193, *Natural gas*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Upstream area*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Four methods for determination of sulfur compounds in natural gas already exist as International Standards:

- ISO 6326-3, *Natural gas — Determination of sulfur compounds — Part 3: Determination of hydrogen sulfide, mercaptan sulfur and carbonyl sulfide sulfur by potentiometry*;
- ISO 6326-5, *Natural gas — Determination of sulfur compounds — Part 5: Lingener combustion method*;
- ISO 16960, *Natural gas — Determination of sulfur compounds — Determination of total sulfur by oxidative microcoulometry method*;
- ISO 19739, *Natural gas — Determination of sulfur compounds using gas chromatography*;
- ISO 20729, *Natural gas — Determination of sulfur compounds — Determination of total sulfur content by ultraviolet fluorescence method*.

Laser absorption spectroscopy is a more efficient method compared with chemical titration because it is an optical and instrumental method. It offers a more convenient and more stable means to analyse H₂S in upstream area natural gas.

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Natural gas — Upstream area — Determination of hydrogen sulfide content by laser absorption spectroscopy

WARNING — The use of this document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipments. This document does not aim to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this document to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to determine the applicability of any other restrictions prior to use.

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of hydrogen sulfide content in working field natural gas of upstream area by laser absorption spectroscopy. The analytical range expressed as mole fraction is 10×10^{-6} to 20 %. The analytical range can be expanded to higher content with specific instrument requirements.

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.

ISO 10715, *Natural gas — Sampling guidelines*

ISO 11095, *Linear calibration using reference materials*

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3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

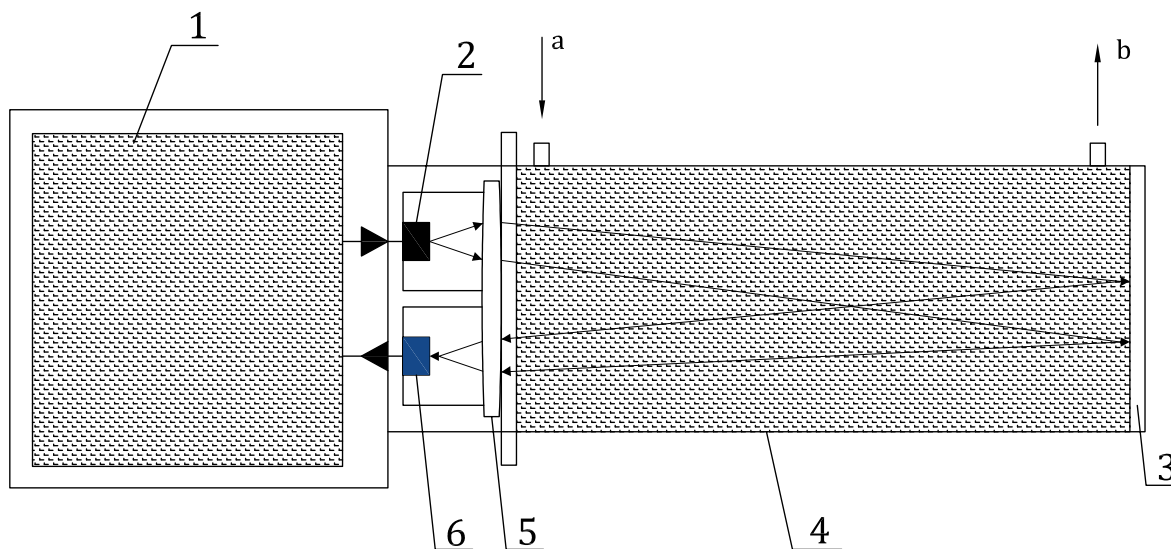
ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

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

4 Principle

4.1 Working principle of the hydrogen sulfide laser absorption analyser

The sketch of the measuring principle is shown in [Figure 1](#). Semiconductor laser generator generates a laser beam, the laser beam goes through the sample. Then, the laser beam is detected by the photoelectric sensor. The energy of the laser beam is attenuated because of the absorption by the testing sample. The absorbance obeys the Lambert-Beer law.



Key

- 1 analytical unit
- 2 laser generator
- 3 mirror
- 4 gas chamber
- 5 lens
- 6 sensor
- a Gas input.
- b Gas output.

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Figure 1 — Working principle of the hydrogen sulfide laser absorption analyser

4.2 Calculation formulae

If the analytical signal is absorbance, the content of hydrogen sulfide is calculated by [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$C_s = \frac{A_s}{A_{ref}} C_{ref} \tag{1}$$

where

- C_s is the content of hydrogen sulfide in the natural gas sample;
- A_s is the absorbance of hydrogen sulfide in the natural gas sample;
- C_{ref} is the content of hydrogen sulfide in the calibration gas;
- A_{ref} is the absorbance of hydrogen sulfide in the calibration gas.

NOTE The reference conditions are preferably 20 °C, 101,325 kPa.

5 Measurement device

5.1 Laser hydrogen sulfide analyser

5.1.1 Laser analyser

The type of laser hydrogen sulfide analyser is selected according to the content of hydrogen sulfide in natural gas. The signal/noise ratio should be higher than 2:1 over the whole analytical range. The light transmission should be higher than 10 % before introducing any sample.

5.1.2 Laser generator

The laser generator should be warmed up according to the operating instructions of the analyser before its first application and also after each switching on. If the operating instructions do not state warming-up period, the laser generator should be warmed up for at least 48 h before its first application and 1 h after the analyser is turned on.

5.2 Gas pressure regulator

The gas pressure regulator should have a minimum interior volume. It shall be made of stainless steel or shall be deactivated; it should show no effect on the analytical result of hydrogen sulfide content.

5.3 Flow rate meter

The sample flow rate through the analyser should be set in accordance with the operating instructions of the analyser.

5.4 Hydrogen sulfide absorber

Beakerflask, flask etc. filled with basic solution can be used as hydrogen sulfide absorber in order to eliminate hydrogen sulfide from the measured natural gas sample.

6 Reagents and material

6.1 Calibration gas

The hydrogen sulfide calibration gas should be certified with proper content to cover the analytical range of the instrument. The balance gas of the calibration gas should be methane.

6.2 Methane

The purity of methane should be higher than 999 mmol/mol. The H₂S impurity mole fraction shall not be more than 0,1 μmol/mol. Methane is used as zero point gas and sweeping gas.

6.3 Absorb solution of hydrogen sulfide

Technical pure sodium hydroxide is used to prepare a 10 % (mass fraction) solution as absorber of sulfur contained in the natural gas sample. Other types of hydrogen sulfur absorbing compounds can also be used to prepare this solution.

7 Measurement

7.1 Preparation

The calibration gas or the sulfur-containing natural gas sample is connected with the analyser according to [Figure 2](#).

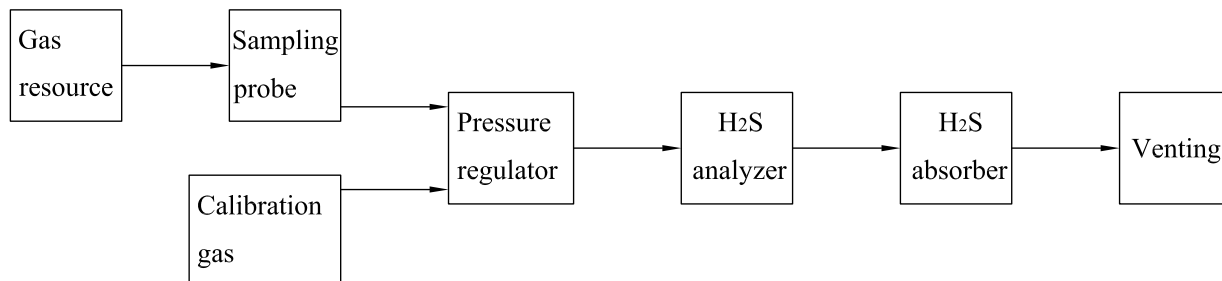


Figure 2 — Analytical procedure of the measurement/calibration

7.2 Calibration of analyser

7.2.1 Calibration frequency

The laser hydrogen sulfide analyser should be properly calibrated. The hydrogen sulfide analyser should be recalibrated according to the needs of the user (at least annually).

7.2.2 Calibration procedure

Before the laser hydrogen sulfide analyser is used to carry out the analysis, the calibration gas specified in [6.1](#) is used to perform the calibration.

Connect the calibration gas with the analyser according to [Figure 2](#). Adjust the input pressure to 0,2 MPa to 0,4 MPa by the gas pressure regulator. Keep a constant and stable flow rate. The change of the flow rate should be less than 10 %. Sweep the analyser with the gas flow for at least 2 min.

After the sulfur-containing calibration gas is used, it should go through the absorption solution before it is vented.

7.2.3 Calibration method

Using ISO 11095, the user should choose the calibration method depending on the analytical accuracy that is required. The following are candidate methods and their requirements:

- bracketing calibration: the difference between calibration gas and analytical result should be less than relatively 20 %;
- response formula simulation: no less than three calibration gas should be used to cover the analytical range;
- one point calibration: the difference between calibration gas and analytical result should be less than relatively 20 %.

If the method is used to monitor fixed natural gas source with constant H₂S concentration, one point calibration or bracketing calibration should be applied. If the method is used to analyse a non-constant natural gas source with changing H₂S concentration, response formula simulation should be applied.

7.3 Sampling

Sampling shall be performed in accordance with ISO 10715.

All the materials used for sampling equipment and transfer lines shall be inert to sulfur compounds. For direct sampling, it should include sample conditioning to ensure the gas injected into the analysis unit does not contain any liquid water, dust or liquid hydrocarbons.

WARNING — H₂S is poisonous, it is important for the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices.

7.4 Measurement of hydrogen sulfide in natural gas sample

Suitable instrument should be selected according to the content of hydrogen sulfide and accuracy requirement.

The analyser should be in the measurement mode while doing the measurement. Connect the gas sample with the analyser according to [Figure 2](#). Adjust the input pressure to 0,2 MPa to 0,4 MPa by the gas regulator. Keep a constant and stable flow rate. The change of the flow rate should be less than 10 %. Sweep the analyser with the gas flow for at least 2 min.

After the sulfur-containing sample is tested, it should go through the absorption solution before it is vented.

7.5 Data processing

When the analyser is in measurement mode, if the listed result is the content of the analysis, testing result should be read directly. If the listed result of the analyser is the absorbance, the content of hydrogen sulfide shall be calculated according to [Formula \(1\)](#). The analytical result should have three significant digits.

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8 Repeatability

In the analytical range given by this document, under repeatability conditions, the difference of two test results in a short time interval (30 s) should not exceed the values listed in [Table 1](#) at a 95 % level of confidence. [Annex A](#) gives an example of the statistical procedure of the repeatability estimation.

Table 1 — Repeatability of different concentration ranges

Content range	Repeatability limits
10 µmol/mol – 50 µmol/mol	5 µmol/mol
50 µmol/mol – 1 mmol/mol	10 µmol/mol
1 mmol/mol – 4 mmol/mol	100 µmol/mol
4 mmol/mol – 20 mmol/mol	600 µmol/mol
20 mmol/mol – 200 mmol/mol	2,5 mmol/mol

9 Uncertainty evaluation

9.1 Principle

The H₂S concentration is calculated using [Formula \(1\)](#). The uncertainty of the final result is based on [Formula \(1\)](#) with some mathematical computing.