
**Cigarettes — Determination of
nicotine in total particulate matter
from the mainstream smoke with
an intense smoking regime — Gas-
chromatographic method**

*Cigarettes — Dosage de la nicotine dans la matière particulaire totale
provenant du courant principal de fumée avec un régime de fumage
intense — Méthode par chromatographie en phase gazeuse*

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	1
5 Reagents	1
6 Apparatus	2
7 Procedure	2
7.1 Test portion.....	2
7.2 Setting up the apparatus.....	3
7.3 Calibration of the gas chromatograph.....	3
7.4 Determination.....	3
8 Expression of results	3
9 Repeatability and reproducibility	4
10 Alternative gas-chromatographic procedures and analysis precautions	4
10.1 General.....	4
10.2 Alternative columns.....	5
10.2.1 Packed columns.....	5
10.2.2 Capillary columns.....	5
10.3 Injection systems.....	5
10.4 Alternative internal standards.....	5
11 Test report	5
Annex A (informative) Example of chromatogram	6
Bibliography	7

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).

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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

Historically, a set of ISO standards have been developed to specify the requirements of analytical cigarette smoking machines and their use for the quantitative determination of a number of cigarette smoke constituents (such as total particulate matter, nicotine free dry particulate matter, water, nicotine or benzo[a]pyrene) with a unique standard smoking regime. The description of this smoking regime is provided in ISO 3308.

Later, requirements to provide smoke constituents data with an intense smoking regime, different from the ISO 3308 standard smoking regime, originated from different countries and the Conferences of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, resulting in a need to specify the conditions for the use of the intense smoking regime on analytical cigarette-smoking machines. The specifications for the use of the intense smoking regime on analytical cigarette-smoking machines are provided in ISO 20778.

Elaboration of this document took into account practical work conducted in the framework of a collaborative study involving 35 laboratories (published as ISO/TR 19478-1 and ISO/TR 19478-2). It provides specifications for the gas-chromatographic determination of nicotine in total particulate matter from the mainstream smoke with an intense smoking regime.

No machine smoking regime can represent all human smoking behaviour.

- It is recommended that cigarettes also be tested under conditions of a different intensity of machine smoking than those specified in this document.
- Machine smoking testing is useful to characterize cigarette emissions for design and regulatory purposes, but communication of machine measurements to smokers can result in misunderstandings about differences in exposure and risk across brands.
- Smoke emission data from machine measurements may be used as inputs for product hazard assessment, but they are not intended to be nor are they valid as measures of human exposure or risks. Communicating differences between products in machine measurements as differences in exposure or risk is a misuse of testing using ISO standards.

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Cigarettes — Determination of nicotine in total particulate matter from the mainstream smoke with an intense smoking regime — Gas-chromatographic method

WARNING — The use of this document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This document does not purport to address all 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 determine the applicability of any other restrictions prior to use.

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the gas-chromatographic determination of nicotine in total particulate matter from the mainstream smoke with an intense smoking regime.

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 20779, *Cigarettes — Generation and collection of total particulate matter using a routine analytical smoking machine with an intense smoking regime*

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

The total particulate matter from the mainstream smoke obtained in accordance with ISO 20779 is dissolved in a solvent containing an internal standard. The nicotine content of an aliquot of the smoke extract is determined by gas chromatography, and the nicotine content in the total particulate matter from the mainstream smoke is calculated.

5 Reagents

Use only reagents of recognized analytical reagent grade.

5.1 Carrier gas, helium (CAS: 7440-59-7) or nitrogen (CAS: 7727-37-9) or hydrogen (CAS: 1333-74-0) of high purity.

5.2 Auxiliary gases, hydrogen (CAS: 1333-74-0) of high purity and air for the flame ionization detector.

5.3 Propan-2-ol (CAS: 67-63-0), with maximum water content of 1,0 mg/ml.

5.4 Internal standard, *n*-heptadecane (CAS: 629-78-7) or quinaldine (CAS: 91-63-4) of purity not less than 99 %.

Carvone (CAS: 99-49-0), *n*-octadecane (CAS: 593-45-3), or other appropriate internal standards may be used after assessment of their purity and determination that the internal standard does not co-elute with other components in the smoke extract. The peak area of the internal standard in smoke extracts should be monitored for consistency. In cases where inconsistencies are found, analysis of an extraction of a smoke sample without the internal standard in the extraction solution should be performed to confirm the absence of a peak in the smoke extract eluting at the same time as the internal standard (see [Clause 10](#)).

5.5 Extraction solvent, propan-2-ol ([5.3](#)) containing an appropriate concentration of internal standard ([5.4](#)); this is normally in the range of 0,2 mg/ml to 0,5 mg/ml.

Solvent not stored in a temperature-controlled laboratory shall be allowed to equilibrate to (22 ± 2) °C before use.

5.6 Reference substance: nicotine (CAS: 54-11-5) of known purity not less than 98 %.

Store this between 0 °C and 4 °C and exclude light.

Nicotine salicylate (CAS: 29790-52-1) of known purity not less than 98 % may also be used.

The purity of the nicotine or nicotine salicylate may be verified in accordance with ISO 13276 or by any other validated method.

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5.7 Calibration solutions

Dissolve the nicotine ([5.6](#)) in the solvent ([5.5](#)) to produce a series of at least four calibration solutions with concentrations that cover the range expected to be found in the test portion (usually 0,02 mg/ml to 2,0 mg/ml). Store these solutions at between 0 °C and 4 °C and exclude light.

Solvent and solutions stored at low temperatures shall be allowed to equilibrate to a temperature of room in which gas-chromatography is located before use.

6 Apparatus

Usual laboratory apparatus and, in particular, the following items.

6.1 Gas-chromatograph, equipped with a flame ionization detector and a suitable data handling instrument (see [Clause 10](#)).

6.2 Column, of internal diameter between 2 mm and 4 mm and preferably of length 1,5 m to 2 m.

The column is preferably made of glass, but other materials such as deactivated stainless steel or nickel may be used. Stationary phase: 10 % poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG) 20 000 plus 2 % potassium hydroxide on an acid-washed silanized support material, 150 µm (100 mesh) to 190 µm (80 mesh) (see also [Clause 10](#)).

7 Procedure

7.1 Test portion

Prepare the test portion by dissolving the total particulate matter from the mainstream smoke by the intense smoking (see ISO 20779) of a known number of cigarettes in a fixed volume of the solvent ([5.5](#)) of 20 ml for 44 mm discs, or 50 ml for 92 mm discs, ensuring that the disc is fully covered. The volume may be adjusted to give a concentration of nicotine appropriate for the calibration graph (see

7.3) provided that there is adequate volume for effective extraction of the total particulate matter. Analysis should be performed as soon as possible, but if storage is inevitable then store the test portion at between 0 °C and 4 °C and exclude light.

7.2 Setting up the apparatus

Set up the apparatus and operate the gas chromatograph (6.1) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure that the peaks for solvent, internal standard, nicotine, and other smoke component peaks, especially neophytadiene (which can appear on the tail of the nicotine peak under certain circumstances), are well resolved (see also Clause 10).

Suitable operating conditions are as follows:

- column temperature, 170 °C (isothermal);
- injection temperature, 250 °C;
- detector temperature, 250 °C;
- carrier gas, helium, nitrogen or hydrogen at a flow rate of about 30 ml/min;
- injection volume, 2 µl.

Using the above conditions, the analysis time is about 6 min to 8 min (see also Clause 10).

7.3 Calibration of the gas chromatograph

Inject an aliquot (2 µl) of each of the calibration solutions (5.7) into the gas chromatograph. Record the peak areas (or heights) of the nicotine and internal standard (5.4). Carry out the determination at least twice.

Calculate the ratio of the nicotine peak to the internal standard peak from the peak area (or height) data for each of the calibration solutions. Plot the graph of the area ratios in accordance with the nicotine concentrations, and calculate a linear regression equation (area ratios according to the nicotine concentrations) from these data. The graph shall be linear and the regression line should pass through the origin. Use the reciprocal of the slope of the regression equation.

Perform this full calibration procedure daily. In addition, inject an aliquot of an intermediate concentration standard after about 20 sample determinations. If the calculated concentration for this solution differs by more than 3 % from the original value, repeat the full calibration procedure.

7.4 Determination

Inject aliquots (2 µl) of the test portion (see 7.1) into the gas chromatograph. Calculate the ratio of the nicotine peak/internal standard peak from the peak area (or height) data.

Carry out two determinations on the same test portion (see 7.1).

Calculate the mean value of the ratio from the two determinations.

Where results are obtained from a number of separate channels of smoking and where an auto-sampler is used, a single aliquot portion from each smoke traps is considered adequate.

8 Expression of results

Calculate the concentration of nicotine in the test portion using the graph or linear regression equation prepared in 7.3. From the concentration of nicotine in the test portion, calculate the amount of nicotine in the total particulate matter. Deduce the amount in the cigarettes smoked. Express the test results in milligrams per cigarette, m_N , for each single result, N , to the nearest 0,01 mg and the average per cigarette to the nearest 0,1 mg.