
Merjenje radioaktivnosti v okolju - Tla - 6. del: Skupna alfa in skupna beta aktivnost - Preskusna metoda z uporabo proporcionalnega merjenja pretoka plina (ISO 18589-6:2019)

Measurement of radioactivity in the environment - Soil - Part 6: Gross alpha and gross beta activities - Test method using gas-flow proportional counting (ISO 18589-6:2019)

Ermittlung der Radioaktivität in der Umwelt - Erdboden - Teil 6: Gesamt-Alpha- und Gesamt-Betaaktivitäten - Messverfahren mit Durchfluss Proportionalzählung (ISO 18589-6:2019)

Mesurage de la radioactivité dans l'environnement - Sol - Partie 6: Mesurage des activités alpha globale et bêta globale - Méthode d'essai utilisant un compteur proportionnel à circulation gazeuse (ISO 18589-6:2019)

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17.240	Merjenje sevanja	Radiation measurements

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Measurement of radioactivity in the environment - Soil - Part 6: Gross alpha and gross beta activities - Test method using gas-flow proportional counting (ISO 18589-6:2019)

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Erdboden - Teil 6: Gesamt-Alpha- und Gesamt-
Betaaktivitäten - Messverfahren mit Durchfluss
Proportionalzählung (ISO 18589-6:2019)

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European foreword

The text of ISO 18589-6:2019 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85 "Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 18589-6:2021 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 430 "Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies, and radiological protection" the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by February 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by February 2022.

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**Measurement of radioactivity in the
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Gross alpha and gross beta activities
— Test method using gas-flow
proportional counting**

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Partie 6: Mesurage des activités alpha globale et bêta globale —

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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).

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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. (standards.iteh.ai)

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 85, *Nuclear energy, nuclear technologies and radiological protection*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Radiological protection*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18589-6:2009), which has been technically revised.

The main change compared to the previous edition is as follows:

- The introduction has been reviewed accordingly to the generic introduction adopted for the standards published on the radioactivity measurement in the environment.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18589 series can be found on the ISO website.

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

Everyone is exposed to natural radiation. The natural sources of radiation are cosmic rays and naturally occurring radioactive substances which exist in the earth and flora and fauna, including the human body. Human activities involving the use of radiation and radioactive substances add to the radiation exposure from this natural exposure. Some of those activities, such as the mining and use of ores containing naturally-occurring radioactive materials (NORM) and the production of energy by burning coal that contains such substances, simply enhance the exposure from natural radiation sources. Nuclear power plants and other nuclear installations use radioactive materials and produce radioactive effluent and waste during operation and decommissioning. The use of radioactive materials in industry, agriculture and research is expanding around the globe.

All these human activities give rise to radiation exposures that are only a small fraction of the global average level of natural exposure. The medical use of radiation is the largest and a growing man-made source of radiation exposure in developed countries. It includes diagnostic radiology, radiotherapy, nuclear medicine and interventional radiology.

Radiation exposure also occurs as a result of occupational activities. It is incurred by workers in industry, medicine and research using radiation or radioactive substances, as well as by passengers and crew during air travel. The average level of occupational exposures is generally below the global average level of natural radiation exposure (see Reference [1]).

As uses of radiation increase, so do the potential health risk and the public's concerns. Thus, all these exposures are regularly assessed in order to:

- improve the understanding of global levels and temporal trends of public and worker exposure;
- evaluate the components of exposure so as to provide a measure of their relative importance;
- identify emerging issues that may warrant more attention and study. While doses to workers are mostly directly measured, doses to the public are usually assessed by indirect methods using the results of radioactivity measurements of waste, effluent and/or environmental samples.

To ensure that the data obtained from radioactivity monitoring programs support their intended use, it is essential that the stakeholders (for example nuclear site operators, regulatory and local authorities) agree on appropriate methods and procedures for obtaining representative samples and for handling, storing, preparing and measuring the test samples. An assessment of the overall measurement uncertainty also needs to be carried out systematically. As reliable, comparable and 'fit for purpose' data are an essential requirement for any public health decision based on radioactivity measurements, international standards of tested and validated radionuclide test methods are an important tool for the production of such measurement results. The application of standards serves also to guarantee comparability of the test results over time and between different testing laboratories. Laboratories apply them to demonstrate their technical competences and to complete proficiency tests successfully during interlaboratory comparisons, two prerequisites for obtaining national accreditation.

Today, over a hundred International Standards are available to testing laboratories for measuring radionuclides in different matrices.

Generic standards help testing laboratories to manage the measurement process by setting out the general requirements and methods to calibrate equipment and validate techniques. These standards underpin specific standards which describe the test methods to be performed by staff, for example, for different types of sample. The specific standards cover test methods for:

- naturally-occurring radionuclides (including ^{40}K , ^3H , ^{14}C and those originating from the thorium and uranium decay series, in particular ^{226}Ra , ^{228}Ra , ^{234}U , ^{238}U and ^{210}Pb) which can be found in materials from natural sources or can be released from technological processes involving naturally occurring radioactive materials (e.g. the mining and processing of mineral sands or phosphate fertilizer production and use);