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**Leather — Organic fluorine —**

Part 1:

**Determination of the non-volatile  
compound content by extraction  
method using liquid chromatography/  
tandem mass spectrometry detector  
(LC-MS/MS)**

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*Cuir — Fluor organique —*

*Partie 1: Détermination de la teneur en composés non volatils par  
une méthode d'extraction utilisant la chromatographie en phase  
liquide couplée à un détecteur par spectrométrie de masse en tandem  
(LC-MS/MS)*



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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](http://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](http://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 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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by the Chemical Test Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUC Commission, IULTCS) in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, the secretariat of which is held by UNI, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for the sampling and testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

A list of all parts in the ISO 23702 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The group of per- and poly-fluorinated compounds (PFC) consists of more than 800 substances. The most well-known are perfluorooctanoic sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

Perfluorooctanoic sulfonic acid (PFOS) is classified as persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT). PFOS and its salts are restricted and regulated in many countries regarding its marketing and use (see References [3] and [4]).

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its salts are suspected of having a similar risk profile to PFOS.

A number of long chain per- and poly-fluorinated compounds have been included in the EU Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC), which is available at <https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>.

The regulatory thresholds for restricted per- and poly-fluorinated compounds limit the use to a level below which they cannot be meaningfully used. The thresholds need to take into consideration the possible presence of unavoidable impurities and unintentional trace contaminants.

The long chain, fully fluorinated anions are non-volatile. They are heat stable and resistant to breaking down in the environment. The per- and poly-fluorinated compounds have been widely used in many industries, including in oil-, soil- and water-repellent finishes for textiles, leather products, paper, furniture and carpets.

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# Leather — Organic fluorine —

## Part 1:

# Determination of the non-volatile compound content by extraction method using liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry detector (LC-MS/MS)

## 1 Scope

This document specifies a test method for detection and quantification of extractable neutral, ionic, long, medium and short chain perfluorinated and poly-fluorinated substances in leather and coated leather.

This document, taking into account the three-dimensional distribution of the fibres within leather, makes the evaluation of the perfluorinated and poly-fluorinated substances with respect to the mass.

Classes of regulated compounds listed in [Annex A, Table A.1](#), include acids, telomers, sulfonates and sulphonamide alcohols. Classes of other non-regulated compounds that can be determined by this document are defined in [Annex B, Table B.1](#).

## 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 2418, *Leather — Chemical, physical and mechanical and fastness tests — Sampling location*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 4044:2017, *Leather — Chemical tests — Preparation of chemical test samples*

EN 15987, *Leather — Terminology — Key definitions for the leather trade*.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in EN 15987 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/>

### 3.1

#### **analyte**

substance or chemical constituent that is subjected to measurement

[SOURCE: CEN/TS 15968:2010, 3.1]

### 3.2

#### **constituent**

pure chemical material and substance of which a material is composed

### 3.3

#### **extract**

concentrated preparation of the analytes isolated from the treated material

### 3.4

#### **internal standard**

compound different from the analyte, present in the sample with known content or added to the sample, simultaneously detected with the analyte, with physical and chemical properties as similar as possible to the analyte

## 4 Principle

The classes of regulated compounds listed in [Annex A, Table A.1](#), are extracted with methanol and the extract is analysed by high-performance liquid chromatograph with a **tandem** mass spectrometric detector (LC-MS/MS).

NOTE The classes of non-regulated compounds listed in [Annex B, Table B.1](#), are processed according to the same principle as the regulated compounds.

## 5 Reagents

The chemicals used below shall be of the defined purity.

5.1 **Distilled or deionized water**, at least Grade 3 quality as specified in ISO 3696.

5.2 **Methanol**, CAS 67-56-1, HPLC grade.

5.3 **Ammonium acetate**, CAS 631-61-8, analytical grade.

5.4 **Stock solutions of reference compounds**, purity > 95 % for the pure substance.

Solutions of the reference compounds listed in [Annex A](#) and [Annex B](#) are available commercially. They should be diluted to the required concentrations. If reference compounds are obtained pure, for example weigh 100 mg of each standard separately into a 100 ml volumetric flask and make up to the mark with methanol ([5.2](#)). Dilute this solution with methanol at a ratio of 1:1 000 to prepare a 1 000 µg/l stock solution.

5.5 **Target compound solutions.**

Prepare a 500 µg/l solution of each target compound by diluting the 1 000 µg/l reference compound stock solutions ([5.3](#)) with methanol.

For the preparation of the target compound solution, certified solutions are commercially available. The purity level and the solvent shall be checked in order to be in accordance with the present standard.

5.6 **Internal standard.**

**A suitable internal standard shall be used.** The impurity level of the internal standard should be determined prior to the use of every new lot.

Examples of suitable mass-labelled internal standards are:

- Perfluoro[1,2,3,4-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>4</sub>]-octanoic-acid, [mass-labelled PFOA];
- <sup>13</sup>C<sub>x</sub>-PFOS (e.g. [F(CF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>8</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> H<sup>+</sup>]-, 1,2,3,4-<sup>13</sup>C<sub>4</sub>);
- <sup>18</sup>O<sub>x</sub>-PFOS (e.g. [F(CF<sub>2</sub>)<sub>8</sub>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> H<sup>+</sup>]-, <sup>18</sup>O<sub>2</sub>).



When other types of labelled internal standards become available, they may be used.

Prepare a 1 000 µg/l solution of the internal standard by diluting the commercial solution with methanol.

### 5.7 Preparation of calibration solutions.

Materials and liquids shall be stored at 4 °C and in clean containers.

Prepare suitable calibration solutions using methanol (5.2), target compound solutions (5.4) and the internal standard solution (5.6). At least five calibration solutions shall be prepared with a concentration range to match the limits given. For example, prepare according to the volumes given in Table 1.

Table 1 — Example of calibration solutions

Concentration (µg/l)	2,5	5	10	20	30
Volume methanol (µl)	975	970	960	940	920
Volume target compound (µl)	5	10	20	40	60
Volume internal standard (µl)	20	20	20	20	20

### 5.8 Eluent for the LC-MS/MS.

10 mM ammonium acetate solution is prepared by dissolving 0,771 g of ammonium acetate (5.3) in 1 000 ml deionized water (5.1).

## 6 Apparatus

Equipment or any accessible part of it that may come into contact with the sample or the extract should be free from interfering compounds, see Annex D.

Use equipment free from all types of fluoropolymer plastics, including polytetrafluoroethene (PTFE). For example, use equipment made of polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene (PE).

Clean all labware and accessible parts of the extraction apparatus by rinsing with methanol (5.2).

Sample containers shall be rinsed thoroughly with water (5.1) and methanol (5.2) prior to use.

Sample containers shall be checked for possible background contamination before use.

**6.1** Suitable device with a **sharp blade** to cut leather sample.

**6.2** **Volumetric flasks**, PP or PE, with inert stopper may be used.

**6.3** **Extraction vials**, suitable PP or PE vials, volume at least 20 ml and able to be used in a centrifuge.

**6.4** **Laboratory centrifuge**, suitable for the extraction vials (6.3).

**6.5** **Ultrasonic bath**, equipped with adjustable bath temperature control, up to at least 60 °C.

**6.6** **Analytical balance**, weighing up to 0,001 g.

**6.7** **High-performance liquid chromatograph**, (LC-MS/MS), temperature-controlled and with all required accessories including gases, LC columns, injector and a tandem mass spectrometry detector.

**6.8** **Membrane filter equipment** and **polyamide or polypropylene membrane filter**, 0,22 µm pore size.

## 7 Testing procedure

### 7.1 Sampling and preparation of the sample

The chosen leather sample should be representative of the lot it is taken from. Sample in accordance with ISO 2418. If sampling in accordance with ISO 2418 is not possible (e.g. leathers from finished products like shoes or garments), details about sampling shall be given in the report. When sampling leather products that have separate distinct parts, the product shall be taken apart and each part shall be analysed separately.

In the case of coated leather, separate, if possible, the coating from the leather substrate. The leather substrate shall be analysed according to the procedure in this document. If separation of the coating from the leather cannot be carried out, the entire article shall be analysed according to this procedure.

NOTE The coating can be analysed according to CEN/TS 15986[2].

Take a leather sample by mass using  $\geq 1$  g of leather. The results shall be reported in units of mg/kg.

Cut (6.1) the leather sample into small pieces according to the method specified in ISO 4044:2017, 6.3.

Accurately weigh (6.6)  $1,0 \text{ g} \pm 0,1 \text{ g}$  of the leather pieces into an appropriate extraction vial (6.3). Record the mass of the leather test sample,  $m$ .

### 7.2 Extraction procedure

#### 7.2.1 Extraction

Add 10 ml methanol (5.2) and 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of the internal standard solution (5.6) to the extraction vial containing the leather pieces. Extract the test specimen in an ultrasonic bath (6.5) at a temperature of 60 °C for 1 hour.

If necessary, centrifuge (6.4) the extraction vial at approximately 2 000 rpm for 5 min. Transfer and filter (6.8) a liquid sample to a vial for LC-MS/MS chromatographic analysis (6.7).

#### 7.2.2 Interferences

Matrix interferences may be caused by contaminants that are co-extracted from the **samples**. **The extent of matrix interferences varies considerably** depending on the nature of the samples, see [Annex D](#).

### 7.3 Analytical procedure

After extraction with methanol the extract is analysed by LC-MS/MS (6.7).

Various types of high-performance liquid chromatographic equipment with mass spectrometric detector (6.7) can be used. Guidelines for suitable chromatographic conditions are given in [Annex C](#). In [C.2](#) and [C.3](#) two LC-MS/MS chromatographic techniques that have been found to be suitable for this analysis are suggested.

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## 8 Calculation and expression of results

### 8.1 Calibration curve

For each of the target PFCs, set up individually the linear regression function, by using the following ratio ( $A_e/A_{is}$ ) and ( $C_e/C_{is}$ ) with the help of the formula:

$$\frac{A_e}{A_{is}} = a \cdot \left( \frac{C_e}{C_{is}} \right) + b$$

where:

$A_e$  is the peak area for the corresponding target PFC compound;

$A_{is}$  is the peak area for the internal standard chosen;

$C_e$  is the concentration of the target PFC in the calibration standard in micrograms per litre;

$C_{is}$  is concentration of internal standard in the calibration standard in micrograms per litre;

$b$  is the ordinate intercept of the calibration curve of the specific PFC;

$a$  is the slope of the calibration curve of the specific PFC.

### 8.2 Calculation of the result

The result is to be given in mg/kg rounded to the nearest 0,1 mg/kg.

The content of each PFC is calculated as mass portion,  $w$ , in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) of the leather sample according to the following formula:

$$w = \frac{V}{1000 \cdot m} \cdot \left( \frac{A_s}{A_{is\_sample}} - b \right) C_{is\_sample}$$

where

$A_s$  is the peak area of the corresponding PFC in the extraction solution;

$A_{is\_sample}$  is the peak area of the corresponding internal standard in the extraction solution;

$C_{is\_sample}$  is the concentration of the corresponding internal standard in the extraction solution in micrograms per litre;

$b$  is the ordinate intercept of the calibration curve of the specific PFC determinate in [8.1](#);

$a$  is the slope of the calibration curve of the specific PFC determinate in [8.1](#);

$V$  is the volume used according to [7.2.1](#) in millilitres (ml);

$m$  is the mass of the leather test sample according to [7.1](#) in grams (g).

## 9 Precision

With this procedure a quantification limit for PFOS of 0,2 mg/kg is achieved, considering the 50 % uncertainty level in an interlaboratory trial, see [Annex E](#).