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**Leather — Chemical determination of  
formaldehyde content —**

**Part 2:  
Method using colorimetric analysis**

*Cuir — Dosage chimique du formaldéhyde —*

*Partie 2: Méthode par analyse colorimétrique*

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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 European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, in collaboration with the Chemical Test Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUC Commission, IULTCS), in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement). This method is technically similar to the Colorimetric Section of the method IUC 19, which was declared an official method at the IULTCS Delegates meeting on 31st May 2003 in Cancún, Mexico.

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 sampling and the testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 17226-2:2008), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 17226-2:2008/Cor.1:2009. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clause 1](#) has been modified;
- the former Clause 2 has become [Clause 4](#), a new [Clause 3](#), *Terms and definitions*, inserted and subsequent clauses renumbered;
- [6.1.1](#), [6.2.1](#), [6.2.2](#), [7.4](#), [7.7](#), [8.2.2](#), [8.2.3](#), [8.2.4](#), [8.2.6](#) and [8.2.8](#) have been technically modified.

A list of all parts in the ISO 17226 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).

# Leather — Chemical determination of formaldehyde content —

## Part 2: Method using colorimetric analysis

### 1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of free and released formaldehyde in leathers. This method, based on colorimetric analysis, is not intended to be used for a precise quantification of formaldehyde.

The formaldehyde content is taken to be the quantity of free-formaldehyde and formaldehyde extracted through hydrolysis contained in a water extract from the leather under standard conditions.

This process is not absolutely selective for formaldehyde. Other compounds such as extracted dyes could interfere at 412 nm.

### 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, *Leather — Chemical tests — Preparation of chemical test samples*

ISO 4684, *Leather — Chemical tests — Determination of volatile matter*

ISO 17226-1, *Leather — Chemical determination of formaldehyde content — Part 1: Method using high performance liquid chromatography*

### 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 Conformance

When compared with ISO 17226-1, the two analytical methods should give similar trends but not necessarily the same absolute result. Therefore, in cases of dispute, ISO 17226-1 shall be used in preference to this document.

## 5 Principle

The leather sample is eluted with detergent solution at 40 °C. The eluate is treated with acetylacetone, whereby formaldehyde reacts to give a yellow compound (3,5-diacetyl-1,4-dihydrolutidine). The absorbance of this compound is measured at 412 nm. The amount of formaldehyde corresponding to the absorbance value for the test specimen is obtained from a calibration curve prepared under identical conditions.

## 6 Reagents

Use only reagents of recognized analytical grade, unless otherwise stated. The water shall be grade 3 in accordance with ISO 3696. All solutions are aqueous solutions.

### 6.1 Reagents for the formaldehyde stock solution

**6.1.1 Formaldehyde solution**, approximately 37 % mass fraction.

Certified solutions of formaldehyde are commercially available. When these solutions are used, the procedure in [8.1.2](#) is not required.

**6.1.2 Iodine solution**, 0,05 mol/l, i.e. 12,68 g iodine per litre.

**6.1.3 Sodium hydroxide solution**, 2,0 mol/l.

**6.1.4 Sulfuric acid solution**, 2,0 mol/l.

**6.1.5 Sodium thiosulfate solution**, 0,1 mol/l.

**6.1.6 Starch solution**, 1 %, i.e. 1 g in 100 ml water.

### 6.2 Reagents for the colorimetric method

**6.2.1 Sodium dodecylsulfonate or sodium dodecylsulfate (detergent) solution**, 0,1 %, 1 g in 1 000 ml water.

**6.2.2 Solution 1**, 150 g ammonium acetate + 3 ml glacial acetic acid + 2 ml acetylacetone (pentane-2,4-dione, CAS 123-54-6) in 1 000 ml water.

The solution can be stored for one week in a dark place (it is sensitive to light).

**6.2.3 Solution 2**, 150 g ammonium acetate + 3 ml glacial acetic acid in 1 000 ml water.

**6.2.4 Dimedone solution**, 5 g dimedone<sup>1)</sup> in 1 000 ml water. Prepare immediately before use.

In some cases, dimedone cannot be readily dissolved in pure water. In such cases, dimedone can be dissolved in a small amount of ethanol and then made up to volume with water.

## 7 Apparatus

Use the usual laboratory equipment and, in particular, the following.

**7.1 Volumetric flasks**, of capacities 10 ml, 50 ml and 1 000 ml.

1) Dimedone (CAS 126-81-8) or methone is 5,5'-dimethyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione.