
**Solid biofuels — Determination
of water sorption and its effect
on durability of thermally treated
biomass fuels —**

**Part 1:
Pellets**

*Biocombustibles solides — Détermination de la sorption d'eau et de
son influence sur la durabilité des combustibles de biomasse traités
thermiquement —*

Partie 1: Granulés

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 238, *Solid biofuels*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 335, *Solid biofuels*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

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

Thermally treated biomass fuels, particularly in compressed form, are increasingly considered as a replacement of fossil coal or for co-firing in large energy plants for production of heat and/or power. Compressed biomass fuels which are not thermally treated easily absorb moisture; this compromises the durability and generates fines. Thermally treated biomass fuels vary in their affinity to absorb moisture (absorption and/or adsorption – here collectively called sorption) depending on the extent and/or type of thermal treatment, feedstock used to make the product, compression, potential additives used, etc. For this purpose, it is important to understand the degree to which thermally treated compressed solid biofuels are resistant to moisture uptake and the degree to which they maintain durability when exposed to moisture, primarily in the form of rain during outdoor storage.

Thermally treated biomass fuel such as pellets or briquettes may be classified based on these characteristics as suitable or unsuitable to be handled and stored under conditions with limited or no weather protection. This document was developed specifically for the classification of pellets and is not intended to be applicable to other forms of densified fuel (e.g. briquettes). It is intended that other parts will be developed as necessary to apply these principles to other forms of thermally treated biomass fuels.

It should be noted that in large-scale storage of thermally treated biomass fuels the degree of wetting will likely vary within the storage. Therefore, this document is not intended to be used to draw conclusions on the average degree of wetting for any particular storage, but rather provides an indication of the degree to which durability and/or moisture content can be affected under worst case conditions. This method can be used for comparative purposes towards other pelletized thermally treated biomass fuels.

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