
**Rubber latex, natural, concentrate —
Determination of volatile fatty acid
number**

*Latex concentré de caoutchouc naturel — Détermination de l'indice
d'acide gras volatil*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	1
5 Reagents	1
6 Apparatus	2
7 Sampling	4
8 Procedure	4
9 Expression of results	5
10 Precision data	5
11 Test report	5
Annex A (informative) Precision	6
Bibliography	7

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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).

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).

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 45, *Rubber and rubber products*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Raw materials (including latex) for use in the rubber industry*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 506:1992), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- in [5.3](#), the recommendation for re-standardization of the standard solution has been added;
- in [5.5](#), silicone antifoaming agent has been added;
- in [6.6](#), qualitative filter paper has been added;
- two new subclauses, [5.6](#) and [6.7](#) have been added;
- a sentence has been added in [8.2](#) to precise the change of colour according to the indicator used;
- precision data have been added in [Annex A](#).

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.

Rubber latex, natural, concentrate — Determination of volatile fatty acid number

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of the volatile fatty acid number of natural rubber latex concentrate. The method is not necessarily suitable for latices from natural sources other than *Hevea brasiliensis* and is not applicable to compounded latex, vulcanized latex, artificial dispersions of rubber or synthetic rubber latices.

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 123, *Rubber latex — Sampling*

ISO 124, *Latex, rubber — Determination of total solids content*

ISO 126, *Natural rubber latex concentrate — Determination of dry rubber content*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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

volatile fatty acid number

VFA

number of grams of potassium hydroxide equivalent to the volatile fatty acids in latex concentrate containing 100 g of total solids

Note 1 to entry: If the substances have been added to the latex which produce volatile acids on acidification with sulfuric acid, the volatile fatty acid number is high and does not represent the volatile fatty acid content without correction.

4 Principle

A test portion is coagulated with ammonium sulfate and a portion of the resultant serum is separated and acidified with sulfuric acid. The acidified serum is steam-distilled and the volatile acids present in the test portion are determined by titration of the distillate with a standard volumetric barium hydroxide solution.

5 Reagents

During the analysis, use only reagents of recognized analytical quality and only distilled water or water of equivalent purity.

5.1 **Ammonium sulfate**, approximately 30 % (mass fraction) solution.

5.2 **Sulfuric acid**, approximately 50 % (mass fraction) solution.

5.3 **Barium hydroxide**, standard volumetric solution, $c[\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2] = 0,005 \text{ mol/dm}^3$, standardized by titration with potassium hydrogen phthalate and stored in the absence of carbon dioxide. In case of finding barium carbonate sediment in the standard solution, re-standardization is recommended.

5.4 **Indicator solution**, either bromothymol blue or phenolphthalein solution, 0,5 % (mass fraction) in a mixture of approximately equal volumes of ethanol and water.

5.5 **Silicone antifoaming agent**, if necessary.

5.6 **Calcium hydroxide**, approximately 5 % (mass fraction) solution.

6 Apparatus

Use ordinary laboratory apparatus and the following.

6.1 **Steam-jacketed distillation apparatus** (Markham still), as presented in [Figure 1](#) and [Table 1](#). As an alternative to the one-piece apparatus illustrated in [Figure 1](#), a ground-glass joint may be inserted between the distillation vessel and the condenser.

6.2 **Steam-bath**.

6.3 **Water-bath**, capable of being maintained at a nominal temperature of 70 °C.

6.4 **Pipettes**, of capacity 5 cm³, 10 cm³, 25 cm³ and 50 cm³.

6.5 **Burette**, of suitable capacity.

6.6 **Qualitative filter paper**, of medium particle retention and medium flow rate.

6.7 **Air pump**, of air flow at least 200 cm³/min.