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Coal and coke — Determination of total sulfur — Eschka method

Charbon et coke — Dosage du soufre total — Méthode Eschka

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Foreword

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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 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 27, *Coal and coke*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Methods of analysis*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 334:2013), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— updating of referenced documents;

— amending of Introduction;

— adding of the provision of terms and definitions.

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

The objective of this document is to provide a reference method for determining the total sulfur content in coal and coke with Eschka method.

Instrumental methods for a more rapid determination of total sulfur are now available. If such a method is to be used, it is important to demonstrate that the method is free from bias, when compared to this reference method, and will give levels of repeatability and reproducibility which are the same as, or better than, those quoted for the reference method (see Clause 10).

Coal and coke — Determination of total sulfur — Eschka method

1 Scope

This document specifies a reference method for determining the total sulfur content of hard coal, brown coals and lignites, and coke by the Eschka method.

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 687, *Solid mineral fuels — Coke — Determination of moisture in the general analysis test sample*

ISO 1170, *Coal and coke — Calculation of analyses to different bases*

ISO 5068-2, *Brown coals and lignites — Determination of moisture content — Part 2: Indirect gravimetric method for moisture in the analysis sample*

ISO 11722, *Solid mineral fuels — Hard coal — Determination of moisture in the general analysis test sample by drying in nitrogen*

ISO 13909-4, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 4: Coal — Preparation of test samples*

ISO 18283, *Hard coal and coke — Manual sampling*

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 Principle

A test portion is ignited in intimate contact with the Eschka mixture in an oxidizing atmosphere at 800 °C to remove combustible matter and to convert the sulfur to sulfate. This is then extracted with hydrochloric acid solution and determined gravimetrically by precipitation with barium chloride.

5 Reagents

WARNING — Care should be exercised when handling the reagents, many of which are toxic and corrosive.

During the analysis, unless otherwise stated, use only reagents of recognized analytical grade and only distilled water or water of equivalent purity.

5.1 Eschka mixture.

Mix two parts by mass of light calcined magnesium oxide with one part by mass of anhydrous sodium (or potassium) carbonate. The mixture shall entirely pass a test sieve of 212 µm nominal size of openings.

5.2 Hydrochloric acid.

Concentrated ρ approximately 1,18 g/ml, mass fraction approximately 36 %.

5.3 Potassium sulfate solution.

Weigh, to the nearest 0,1 mg, about 2 g of potassium sulfate, previously dried at a temperature of 105 °C to 110 °C. Dissolve in water and dilute to 1 l.

5.4 Barium chloride, approximately 85 g/l solution.

Dissolve 100 g of barium chloride dihydrate in water and dilute to 1 l. Filter before use through a close-textured, doubly acid-washed filter paper or filter-paper pad.

5.5 Methyl red indicator solution.

Dissolve 1 g of 2-(4-dimethylaminophenylazo) benzoic acid sodium salt (methyl red) in 1 l of water.

5.6 Ammonia, concentrated solution, mass fraction not less than 25 %.

5.7 Silver nitrate, 17 g/l solution.

Dissolve 17 g of silver nitrate in water and dilute to 1 l. Store in a dark, glass bottle.

6 Apparatus

6.1 Analytical balance, capable of weighing to the nearest 0,1 mg.

6.2 Graduated glassware, conforming to the requirements for class A in the international standards prepared by ISO/TC 48.

6.3 Electrically heated muffle furnace, capable of being maintained at a temperature of 800 °C ± 25 °C. The ventilation through the muffle furnace shall be such as to give about five air changes per minute.

6.4 Crucible, of platinum, silica, or glazed porcelain, of capacity approximately 25 ml.

6.5 Flat plate, 6 mm thick, of silica (or other suitable refractory material) which fits easily into the muffle furnace (6.3).

6.6 Gooch crucible, of glazed porcelain or sintered glass.

6.7 Air oven, capable of being maintained at a temperature of 130 °C ± 10 °C.

7 Preparation of test sample

The sample shall be the general analysis test sample, prepared to a nominal top size of 212 µm by the preparation procedures specified in ISO 13909-4 or ISO 18283.

The sample should be brought in moisture equilibrium with the laboratory atmosphere by exposure in a thin layer on a tray. Exposure time shall be kept to a minimum (this is particularly important for brown coals and lignites).

The sample shall be thoroughly mixed for at least 1 min immediately before analysis, preferably by mechanical means.

If the results are to be calculated other than on an "air-dried" basis (see Clause 9), then, after weighing the test portion (see 8.1), determine the moisture content using a further portion of the test sample by the method specified in ISO 687, ISO 5068-2 or ISO 11722.

8 Procedure

8.1 Test portion

8.1.1 For coal

Take a test portion of the mass given in Table 1 (for the expected total sulfur content), weighing to the nearest 0,1 mg.

Table 1 — Test portion for coal

Expected total sulfur content	Mass of test portion
%	g
<5	1,0
5 to 10	0,5
>10	0,25

8.1.2 For coke

Take a test portion of 1 g, weighing to the nearest 0,1 mg.

8.2 Charging the crucible

Cover the bottom of the crucible (6.4) uniformly with 0,5 g of the Eschka mixture (5.1), weighed to the nearest 0,1 mg. Mix the test portion intimately with 2,5 g of the Eschka mixture, weighed to the nearest 0,1 mg, in a suitable vessel. Transfer the mixture to the 25 ml crucible. Level the contents by tapping the crucible gently on the bench and cover the contents uniformly with 1,0 g of the Eschka mixture, weighed to the nearest 0,1 mg.

The entire 4 g of the Eschka mixture should be weighed out and the 0,5 g and 1 g portions, required for the bottom and top layers, should be extracted from this. For this purpose, it is convenient to calibrate a small glass tube for each bath of the Eschka mixture to deliver 0,5 g and 1 g without weighing. The bottom layer of the Eschka mixture below the test portion mixture reduces attack on the porcelain surface so that the extraction of sulfate with hot water is complete even when the surface deteriorates.