



**International
Standard**

ISO 11890-1

**Paints and varnishes —
Determination of volatile organic
compounds (VOC) and/or semi
volatile organic compounds (SVOC)
content —**

**Part 1:
Gravimetric method for VOC
determination**

*Peintures et vernis — Détermination de la teneur en composés
organiques volatils (COV) et/ou composés organiques semi-
volatils (COSV) —*

Partie 1: Méthode gravimétrique pour la détermination des COV

**Third edition
2024-05**

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	2
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Principle	4
5 Required information	4
6 Apparatus	5
7 Procedure	5
7.1 Sampling.....	5
7.2 Analysis.....	5
7.2.1 General.....	5
7.2.2 Density.....	5
7.2.3 Non-volatile-matter content.....	5
7.2.4 Water content.....	5
7.2.5 Exempt compounds.....	6
8 Calculation	6
8.1 General.....	6
8.2 Method 1: VOC content, as a mass fraction in percentage of the product “ready for use”.....	6
8.3 Method 2: VOC content, in grams per litre, of the product “ready for use”.....	6
8.4 Method 3: VOC content, in grams per litre, of the product “ready for use” less water.....	7
8.5 Method 4: VOC content, in grams per litre, of the product “ready for use” less water and less exempt compounds.....	7
9 Results	7
10 Precision	8
10.1 General.....	8
10.2 Repeatability limit, r	8
10.3 Reproducibility limit, R	8
11 Test report	9
Annex A (normative) Items for supplementary information for radiation curable coating materials	10
Annex B (informative) Non-volatile-matter content	11
Annex C (informative) Influence of SVOC on the VOC content determined by this document	13
Annex D (informative) Results of the interlaboratory test	14
Bibliography	15

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 document 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 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee SC 16, *Chemical analysis*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11890-1:2007), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- In the scope, for coating materials identified as case 1, the expected VOC content that can be determined by this document has been lowered from greater than 15 % to greater than 5 %, and matrices that were not previously covered by this document have been added;
- the scope has been expanded to include multi-pack coating materials, described as case 2 and radiation curable coating materials, described as case 3;
- the test method of non-volatile-matter content for multi-pack coating materials and radiation curable coating materials has been added;

A list of all parts in the ISO 11890 series can be found on the 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.

Introduction

Due to the revision of ISO 11890-2, a revision of ISO 17895 and this document became necessary in order to avoid overlapping scopes. Additionally, ISO/TR 5601 was published as an informative document to help users selecting the appropriate analytical method for their analytical problem.

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Paints and varnishes — Determination of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and/or semi volatile organic compounds (SVOC) content —

Part 1: Gravimetric method for VOC determination

WARNING — The use of this document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of users of this document to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and health of personnel prior to the application of the document, and to determine the applicability of any other restrictions for this purpose.

1 Scope

This document is part of the ISO 11890 series, dealing with the sampling and testing of coating materials and their raw materials.

This document is applicable to the determination of volatile organic compound (VOC) content in the following cases:

- case 1: where there are single-pack coating materials other than case 3, and the expected VOC content is greater than a mass fraction of 5 %, including single-pack coating materials cure not through chemical reactions and single-pack coating materials which cannot be measured by ISO 11890-2 due to chemical cure reactions or gas chromatography temperatures leading to formation of new compounds that would not appear under normal cure conditions and impacts VOC/SVOC calculation;
- case 2: where there are multi-pack coating materials other than case 3 and the expected VOC content is greater than a mass fraction of 1 %;
- case 3: where there are radiation curable coating materials, and the expected VOC content is greater than a mass fraction of 5 %. Radiation curable coating materials in this document include coating materials that are cured by UV, electron beam, and other radiation methods.

If the system of the first case contains SVOC, but do not cure through chemical reactions, the VOC result can be influenced by SVOC, see [Annex C](#). In this case, ISO 11890-2 is preferred. ISO 11890-1 cannot be used for the determination of the SVOC content. In water-borne coating materials, that do not cure through chemical reactions, if the water content is much greater than VOC content and VOC content is less than a mass fraction of 10 %, ISO 11890-2 is preferred.

For all three cases, the main purpose measured is VOC. However, clarify that this VOC content can also contain SVOC. The real VOC content can be lower than the VOC content measured by ISO 11890-1.

The method specified in this document assumes that the volatile matter is either water or organic. However, it is possible that other volatile inorganic compounds are present which can require another suitable method for quantification, which is thus allowed for in the calculations. The method defined in this document is not applicable for determination of water content.

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 760, *Determination of water — Karl Fischer method (General method)*

ISO 1513, *Paints and varnishes — Examination and preparation of test samples*

ISO 2811-1, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density — Part 1: Pycnometer method*

ISO 2811-2, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density — Part 2: Immersed body (plummet) method*

ISO 2811-3, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density — Part 3: Oscillation method*

ISO 2811-4, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density — Part 4: Pressure cup method*

ISO 3251, *Paints, varnishes and plastics — Determination of non-volatile-matter content*

ISO 11890-2, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of volatile organic compounds(VOC) and/or semi volatile organic compounds (SVOC) content — Part 2: Gas-chromatographic method*

ISO 15528, *Paints, varnishes and raw materials for paints and varnishes — Sampling*

ISO 23168, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of water content — Gas-chromatographic method*

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 <https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/iso/19a69da5-2498-4063-8f93-134928696f35/iso-11890-1-2024> **volatile organic compound**

VOC

organic liquid and/or solid that evaporates spontaneously at the prevailing temperature and pressure of the atmosphere with which it is in contact

Note 1 to entry: As to current usage of the term VOC in the field of coating materials, see *volatile organic compound content VOC content* (3.3).

Note 2 to entry: Under US government legislation, the term VOC is restricted solely to those compounds that are photochemically active in the atmosphere (see ASTM D3960). Any other compound is then defined as being an exempt compound.

Note 3 to entry: If the term VOC refers to compounds with a defined maximum boiling point, the compounds considered to be part of the VOC content are those with boiling points below and including that limit, and compounds with higher boiling points are considered to be semi-volatile or non-volatile organic compounds.

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2023, 2.266]

3.2

semi-volatile organic compound

SVOC

organic liquid and/or solid that evaporates spontaneously but slower in comparison to VOC at the prevailing temperature and pressure of the atmosphere with which it is in contact

Note 1 to entry: As to current usage of the term SVOC in the field of coating materials, see *semi-volatile organic compounds content SVOC content* (3.4).

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2023, 3.227]

3.3

volatile organic compound content

VOC content

VOCC

mass of the *volatile organic compound* (3.1) present in a coating material, as determined under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: The properties and the amounts of compounds to be taken into account depend on the field of application of the coating material. For each field of application, the limiting values and the methods of determination or calculation are stipulated by regulations or by agreement.

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2023, 3.267]

3.4

semi-volatile organic compounds content

SVOC content

SVOCC

mass of the *semi-volatile organic compounds* (3.2) present in a coating material, as determined under specified conditions

Note 1 to entry: The properties and the amounts of the compounds to be taken into account will depend on the field of application of the coating material. For each field of application, the limiting values and the methods of determination or calculation are stipulated by regulations or by agreement.

Note 2 to entry: If the term SVOC refers to compounds with a defined maximum boiling point and minimum boiling point, the compounds considered to be part of the SVOC content are those with boiling points below and including the upper and above the lower limit, and compounds with higher boiling points are considered to be non-volatile organic compounds.

Note 3 to entry: If the term VOC refers to compounds with a defined maximum boiling point, the compounds considered to be part of the VOC content are those with boiling points below and including that limit, and compounds with higher boiling points are considered to be semi-volatile or non-volatile organic compounds.

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2023, 3.228]

3.5

non-volatile organic compound

NVOC

organic liquid and/or solid not classified as *volatile organic compound* (3.1) or *semi-volatile organic compound* (3.2)

[SOURCE: ISO 11890-2:2020, 3.3]

3.6

radiation curable coating material

coating material that is cured by radiation, such as ultra-violet radiation or electron beam

3.7

multi-pack coating

coating material that is supplied in two or more separate components which have to be mixed before use in the proportions specified by the manufacturer

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2023, 3.159]

3.8

non-volatile matter

NV

residue by mass obtained by evaporation under specified conditions

[SOURCE: ISO 4618:2023, 3.175]

3.9

UV curing

hardening of *coating materials* by exposure to ultra-violet radiation

3.10

exempt compound

organic compound that does not participate in atmospheric photochemical reactions

Note 1 to entry: This expression is only relevant in some countries.

[SOURCE: ISO 11890-2:2020, 3.6]

3.11

ready for use

state of a product when it is mixed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in the correct proportions and thinned if required using the correct thinners so that it is ready for application by the approved method

[SOURCE: ISO 11890-2:2020, 3.7]

4 Principle

ISO 11890-1:2024

After preparation of the sample, the non-volatile matter is determined by an appropriate method according to the type of sample. The water content is determined using a titration technique employing a Karl Fischer reagent according to ISO 760 or a gas-chromatographic method according to ISO 23168. If necessary, determine the density of the sample using a suitable method in accordance with the type of sample. The contents of exempt compounds, if applicable, are then determined using the method specified in ISO 11890-2. The VOC content of the sample is then calculated.

5 Required information

For any particular application, the information required should preferably be agreed between the interested parties and may be derived, in part or totally, from an international or national standard or other document related to the product under test. Other items of supplementary information are given in [Annex A](#).

The required information can include the following points:

- a) the organic compound(s) to be determined (if known);
- b) the analytical method(s) to be used to identify these compounds;
- c) the organic compounds in a) which are exempt compounds (see [7.2.5](#));
- d) the method of calculation to be used (see [Clause 8](#)).