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**Health and safety in welding and allied processes — Sampling of airborne particles and gases in the ~~operator's~~operator's breathing zone —**

**Part 1:  
Sampling of airborne particles**

*Hygiène et sécurité en soudage et techniques connexes — Échantillonnage des particules en suspension et des gaz dans la zone respiratoire des opérateurs — ~~Partie 1: Échantillonnage des particules en suspension~~*

Partie 1: Échantillonnage des particules en suspension

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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 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 44, *Welding and allied processes*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Health and safety*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 121, *Welding and allied processes*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 10882-1:2011), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- references to other documents have been updated;
- in 8.2 and 9.3.1.1, in 8.2 and 9.3.1.1, alternative personal sampling position(s) for air-fed welder's helmets and sampling methods with more than one collection device have been added.

A list of all parts in the ISO 10882 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). Official interpretations of ISO/TC 44 documents, where they exist, are available from this page: <https://committee.iso.org/sites/tc44/home/interpretation.html>.



## Introduction

The health of workers in many industries is at risk through exposure by inhalation to airborne particles generated by welding and allied processes (welding fumes) and other airborne particles generated by welding-related operations, such as grinding. Industrial hygienists and other public health professionals need to determine the effectiveness of measures taken to control workers' exposure to these harmful substances and this is generally achieved by making personal exposure measurements.

This document is intended to be of benefit to agencies concerned with health and safety at work, industrial hygienists and other public health professionals, industrial users of welding and allied processes and their workers, and analytical laboratories.

It has been assumed in the drafting of this document that the execution of its provisions, and the interpretation of the results obtained, is entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people.

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# Health and safety in welding and allied processes — Sampling of airborne particles and gases in the ~~operator's~~operator's breathing zone —

## Part 1: Sampling of airborne particles

### 1 Scope

This document specifies a procedure for sampling airborne particles in the breathing zone of a person who performs welding and allied processes (the operator). It also provides details of relevant standards that specify required characteristics, performance requirements and test methods for workplace air measurement, and augments guidance provided in EN 689 on assessment strategy and measurement strategy.

This document also specifies a procedure for making gravimetric measurements of personal exposure to airborne particles generated by welding and allied processes (welding fumes) and other airborne particles generated by welding-related operations.

Additionally, it provides references to suitable methods of chemical analysis specified in other standards to determine personal exposure to specific chemical agents present in welding fumes and other airborne particles generated by welding-related operations.

### 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 7708:1995, *Air quality — Particle size fraction definitions for health-related sampling*

ISO 15767, *Workplace atmospheres — Controlling and characterizing uncertainty in weighing collected aerosols*

ISO 18158:2016, *Workplace air — Terminology*

EN 482, *Workplace exposure — General requirements for the performance of procedures for the measurement of chemical agents*

EN 13205-1, *Workplace exposure — Assessment of sampler performance for measurement of airborne particle concentrations — Part 1: General requirements*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 7708:1995 and in ISO 18158:2016 and the following 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 General definitions

#### 3.1.1

##### chemical agent

chemical element or compound, on its own or admixed, as it occurs in the natural state or as produced, used or released, including release as waste, by any work activity, whether or not produced intentionally and whether or not placed on the market

[SOURCE: Council Directive 98/24/EC, Art. 2 a)]

#### 3.1.2

##### breathing zone

space around the nose and mouth from which breath is taken

Note 1 to entry: Technically, the breathing zone corresponds to a hemisphere (generally accepted to be 30 cm in radius) extending in front of the human face, centred on the midpoint of a line joining the ears. The base of the hemisphere is a plane through this line, the top of the head and the larynx. This technical description is not applicable when respiratory protective equipment is used.

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.1.5.5]

#### 3.1.3

##### exposure

<inhalation> situation in which a *chemical agent* (3.1.1)(3.1.1) or biological agent is present in the air that is inhaled by a person

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.1.5.1]

#### 3.1.4

##### occupational exposure limit value

##### OELV

limit of the time-weighted average of the concentration of a *chemical agent* (3.1.1)(3.1.1) in the air within the *breathing zone* (3.1.2)(3.1.2) of a worker in relation to a specified reference period

[SOURCE: Council Directive 98/24/EC, Art. 2 d), modified — Note 1 to entry was added]

Note 1 to entry: Limit values are mostly set for reference periods of 8 h, but can also be set for shorter periods or concentration excursions. Limit values for gases and vapours are stated in terms independent of temperature and air pressure variables in millilitres per cubic metre, and in terms dependent on those variables in milligrams per cubic metre, for a temperature of 20 °C and a pressure of 101,3 kPa. Limit values for airborne particles, as well as mixtures of particles and vapours, are given in milligrams per cubic metre or multiples of that unit for actual environmental conditions (temperature, pressure) at the workplace. Limit values of fibres are given in number of fibres per cubic metre or number of fibres per cubic centimetre for actual environmental conditions (temperature, pressure) at the workplace.

[SOURCE: Council Directive 98/24/EC, Art. 2 d), modified — Note 1 to entry added.]

#### 3.1.5

##### reference period

specified period of time for which the *occupational exposure limit value* (3.1.4)(3.1.4) of a *chemical agent* (3.1.1)(3.1.1) or biological agent applies

Note 1-to-entry: The reference period is usually 8 h for long-term measurements and 15 min for short-term measurements.

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.1.5.7]

### 3.1.6 time-weighted average concentration TWA concentration

concentration of a *chemical agent* (3.1.1)(3.1.1) in the atmosphere, averaged over a reference period

[SOURCE: ISO 25901-2:2022, 3.3.10, modified — “<occupational health>” deleted as the domain for the definition.]

### 3.1.7 total airborne particles

all particles surrounded by air in a given volume of air

Note 1-to-entry: Because all measuring instruments are size selective to some extent, it is often impossible to measure the total airborne particle concentration.

[SOURCE: ISO 7708:1995, 2.13]

### 3.1.8 workplace

designated area or areas in which the work activities are carried out

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.1.6.2]

## 3.2 Sampling definitions

### 3.2.1 sample air sample

product of the process of (air) *sampling* (3.2.2)(3.2.2)

Note 1-to-entry: An air sample is frequently considered to include the collection substrate(s) as well as the collected *chemical agents* (3.1.1)(3.1.1) and/or biological agents; or sometimes it is considered to be the fractional part of a larger volume of air.

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.2.1.1, modified — “<workplace air quality>” deleted as the domain for the definition.]

### 3.2.2 sampling air sampling

process consisting of the separation of *chemical agents* (3.1.1)(3.1.1) and/or biological agents from air or the withdrawal or isolation of a fractional part of a larger volume of air

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.2.3.1, modified — “<workplace air quality>” deleted as the domain for the definition.]

### 3.2.3

#### collection substrate

#### sampling substrate

#### collection medium

#### sampling medium

medium on which airborne *chemical agents* (3.1.4)(3.1.1) and/or biological agents are collected for subsequent analysis

Note 1\_to\_entry: Filters, polyurethane foams and sampling cassettes are examples of collection substrates for airborne particles.

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.2.3.7, modified — Note 2 and Note 3 to entry were deleted]

### 3.2.4

#### inhalable fraction

mass fraction of *total airborne particles* (3.1.7)(3.1.7) which are capable of being inhaled through the nose and mouth

Note 1\_to\_entry: The inhalable fraction depends on the speed and direction of the air movement, the rate of breathing and other factors.

[SOURCE: ISO 7708:1995, 2.3, modified — Definition revised.]

### 3.2.5

#### inhalable sampler

aerosol sampler that is used to collect the *inhalable fraction* (3.2.4)(3.2.4) of airborne particles from the surrounding air

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.2.2.1.6.1]

### 3.2.6

#### key component of welding fume

component of *welding fume* (3.3.9)(3.3.9) that has the greatest occupational hygienic significance and therefore requires the most stringent control measures to ensure that a welder is not exposed to an excessive level of the substance concerned, i.e. it is the component whose limit value is exceeded at the lowest *welding fume* (3.3.9)(3.3.9) concentration

[SOURCE: ISO 15011-4:2017, 3.3]

### 3.2.7

#### personal sample

product of the process of using a *sampler* (3.2.12)(3.2.12), attached to a person, to collect gases, vapours and/or airborne particles in the breathing zone for the purpose of measuring exposure to *chemical agents* (3.1.4)(3.1.1) and/or biological agents

[SOURCE: ISO 18158:2016, 2.2.1.3]

### 3.2.8

#### personal sampler

*sampler* (3.2.12)(3.2.12), attached to a person, that collects gases, vapours or airborne particles in the *breathing zone* (3.1.2)(3.1.2) for the purpose of measuring exposure to *chemical agents* (3.1.4)(3.1.1) and/or biological agents