



International  
Standard

**ISO 12141**

**Stationary source emissions —  
Determination of low range mass  
concentration of dust — Manual  
gravimetric method**

*Émissions de sources fixes — Détermination de faibles  
concentrations en masse de poussières — Méthode gravimétrique  
manuelle*

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CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

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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 CEN (as EN 13284-1:2017) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was assigned to Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Stationary source emissions*, and adopted under the "fast-track procedure".

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12141:2002), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- all technical changes have been listed in [Annex I](#);
- "this European Standard" has been changed to "this document";
- "section" has been changed to "Clause" or "subclause".

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).

## Introduction

The measurement method specified in this document has been developed in close liaison and cooperation between ISO/TC 146/SC 1 and CEN/TC 264, resulting in the preparation of the first editions of the International Standard ISO 12141:2002 and the European Standard EN 13284-1:2001.

In the meantime, CEN/TC 264 has revised EN 13284-1:2001 in order to adapt the content to the state of the art. The basic concept of the measurement method has not been changed. Against this background and to ensure comparability of measurement results at international level, ISO/TC 146/SC 1 has decided to adopt EN 13284-1:2017 without technical changes. However, some editorial adjustments have been made to take account of the international application of this document. For example, references to EN 15259:2007 in EN 13284-1:2017 have been replaced in this document by references to the technically identical ISO 15259:2023.

To meet the specifications of this document, a certain level of accuracy for weighing the particle sample is needed. At low dust concentrations, this level of accuracy can be achieved by:

- a) exercising extreme care in weighing, as per procedures of this document;
- b) extending the sampling time at conventional sampling rates; or
- c) sampling at higher rates for conventional sampling times (high-volume sampling).

High-volume sampling is not part of this document since it was not part of the validation of the measurement method.

The measurement method specified in this document can be used for the calibration of automated measuring systems (AMS) (see ISO 10155). If the waste gas contains unstable, reactive or semivolatile substances, the measurement depends on the filtration temperature, and in-stack methods can be more applicable than out-stack methods for the calibration of AMS.

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# Stationary source emissions — Determination of low range mass concentration of dust — Manual gravimetric method

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the standard reference method (SRM) for the measurement of low dust concentration in ducted gaseous streams in the concentrations below 50 mg/m<sup>3</sup> at standard conditions.

This document is primarily developed and validated for gaseous streams emitted by waste incinerators. More generally, it can be applied to gases emitted from other stationary sources, and to higher concentrations.

If the gases contain unstable, reactive or semi-volatile substances, the measurement depends on the sampling and filter treatment conditions.

This method has been validated in field tests with special emphasis to dust concentrations around 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. The results of the field tests are presented in [Annex A](#).

## 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 15259:2023, *Air quality — Measurement of stationary source emissions — Requirements for measurement sections and sites and for the measurement objective, plan and report*

ISO 16911-1, *Stationary source emissions — Manual and automatic determination of velocity and volume flow rate in ducts — Part 1: Manual reference method*

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## 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 dust

particles, of any shape, structure or density, dispersed in the gas phase at the sampling point conditions which may be collected by filtration under specified conditions after representative sampling of the gas to be analysed, and which remain upstream of the filter and on the filter after drying under specified conditions

### 3.2 filtration temperature

temperature of the sampled gas immediately downstream of the filter

### 3.3 in-stack filtration

filtration in the duct with the filter in its filter housing placed immediately downstream of the sampling nozzle

**3.4 out-stack filtration**

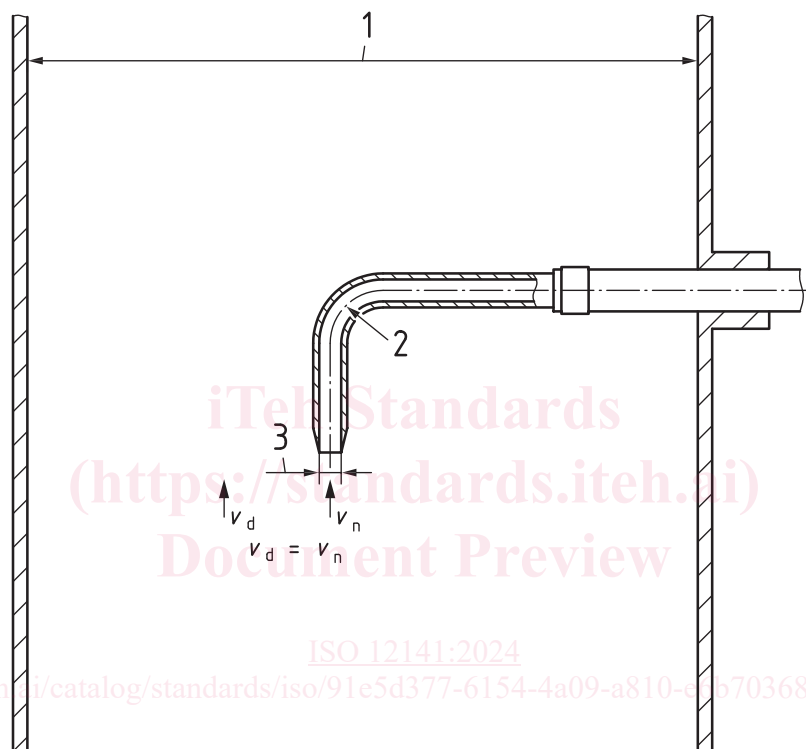
filtration outside of the duct with the filter in its heated filter housing placed downstream of the sampling nozzle and the suction tube

**3.5 isokinetic sampling**

sampling at a flow rate such that the velocity  $v_n$  and direction of the gas entering the sampling nozzle are the same as the velocity  $v_d$  and direction of the gas in the duct at the *measurement point* (3.10)

Note 1 to entry: [Figure 1](#) gives an illustration of isokinetic sampling.

Note 2 to entry: [Annex B](#) shows the influence of the *isokinetic rate* (3.6) on the representativeness of the collected particles.



**Key**

- 1 duct
- 2 radius of the bend (minimum 1,5  $d_p$ )
- 3 internal diameter of the suction tube  $d_p$

**Figure 1 — Isokinetic sampling**

**3.6 isokinetic rate**

velocity ratio  $v_n/v_d$  expressed in percentage as a characteristic of the deviation from *isokinetic sampling* (3.5)

**3.7 hydraulic diameter**

$d_h$   
quotient of four times the area  $A$  and the perimeter  $P$  of the *measurement plane* (3.8)

$$d_h = \frac{4 \times A}{P} \tag{1}$$

[SOURCE: ISO 15259:2023, 3.14]



**3.8 measurement plane**

plane normal to the centreline of the duct at the sampling position

[SOURCE: ISO 15259:2023, 3.13]

Note 1 to entry: Measurement plane is also known as sampling plane.

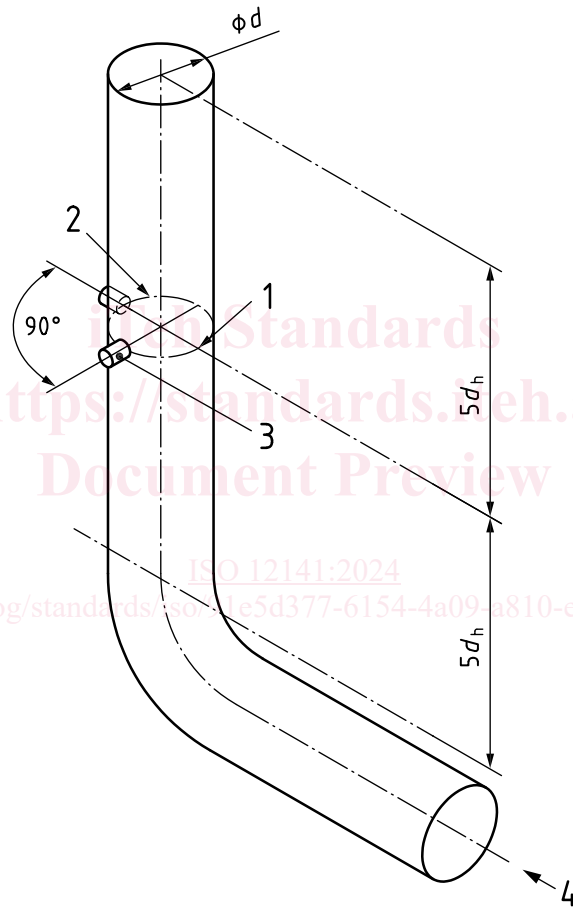
**3.9 measurement line**

line in the sampling plane along which the sampling points are located, bounded by the inner duct wall

[SOURCE: ISO 15259:2023, 3.15]

Note 1 to entry: Measurement line is also known as sampling line.

Note 2 to entry: [Figure 2](#) gives an illustration of definitions in relation to a circular duct.



**Key**

- |   |                   |   |                  |
|---|-------------------|---|------------------|
| 1 | measurement line  | 3 | measurement port |
| 2 | measurement plane | 4 | flow direction   |

**Figure 2 — Illustration of definitions in relation to a circular duct**

**3.10  
measurement point**

position in the *measurement plane* (3.8) at which the sample stream is extracted or the measurement data are obtained directly

[SOURCE: ISO 15259:2023, 3.16]

Note 1 to entry: Measurement point is also known as sampling point.

**3.11  
measurement port**

opening in the waste gas duct along the *measurement line* (3.9), through which access to the waste gas is gained

[SOURCE: ISO 15259:2023, 3.18]

Note 1 to entry: Measurement port is also known as sampling port or access port.

**3.12  
standard conditions**

reference values for a dry gas at a pressure of 101,3 kPa and a temperature of 273,15 K

**3.13  
field blank**

sample obtained according to the *field blank procedure* (3.14)

**3.14  
field blank procedure**

procedure used to ensure that no significant contamination has occurred during all the steps of the measurement

Note 1 to entry: This includes for instance the equipment preparation in laboratory, its transport and installation in the field as well as the subsequent analytical work in the laboratory.

**3.15  
field blank value**

result of a measurement performed according to the *field blank procedure* (3.14) at the plant site and in the laboratory

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**3.16  
weighing control**

procedure for the detection/correction of apparent weight variations due to possible changes between pre and post sampling weighing conditions

**3.17  
measurement series**

successive measurements carried out at the same *measurement plane* (3.8) and at the same operating conditions of the industrial process

**3.18  
emission limit value**

**ELV**

limit value given in regulations such as directives, ordinances, administrative regulations, permits, licences, authorizations or consents

Note 1 to entry: ELV can be stated as concentration limits expressed as half-hourly, hourly and daily averaged values, or mass flow limits expressed as hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or annually aggregated values.

Note 2 to entry: For purposes other than regulatory uses, the measurement value is compared to a stated reference value.

## 4 Symbols and abbreviations

### 4.1 Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the following symbols apply.

$A$	area of the measurement plane
$c$	dust concentration
$d$	diameter of the duct
$d_h$	hydraulic diameter
$d_n$	internal diameter of the sampling nozzle
$d_p$	internal diameter of the suction tube
$f_c$	correction factor
$h_a$	humidity of the gas in actual conditions, in percentage volume
$h_m$	humidity of the gas in measurement conditions, in percentage volume
$m$	total mass of dust collected upstream of the filter (rinsing) and on the filter
$o_m$	oxygen concentration in percentage volume of dry gas measured in the duct
$o_{ref}$	oxygen reference concentration in percentage volume of dry gas
$P$	perimeter of the measurement plane
$p_a$	absolute pressure of gases in actual conditions in the duct
$p_m$	absolute pressure of the gas in measurement conditions at the volume meter
$Q_a$	sampling volumetric flow rate, expressed in the actual conditions in the duct
$Q_m$	measured sampling volumetric flow rate at gas meter conditions
$T_a$	temperature of the gas in actual conditions in the duct, in Kelvin
$T_m$	temperature of the gas in measurement conditions at the volume meter, in Kelvin
$V$	sample volume
$v_d$	velocity of the gas in the duct at the measurement point
$v_n$	velocity of the gas entering the sampling nozzle

### 4.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviations apply.

ELV	emission limit value
PTFE	polytetrafluoroethylene

## 5 Principle

A sample stream of the gas is extracted from the main gas stream at representative measurement points for a measured period of time, with an isokinetically controlled flow rate and a measured volume. The dust entrained in the gas sample is separated by a pre-weighed plane filter, which is then dried and re-weighed. Deposits upstream of the filter in the sampling system are also recovered and weighed. The increase of mass of the filter and the deposited mass upstream the filter are attributed to dust collected from the sampled gas, which allows the dust concentration to be calculated.

Two different configurations of the sampling system may be used depending on the characteristics of gases to be sampled (see [7.2.2](#)).

Valid measurements can be achieved only when:

- a) the gas stream in the duct at the measurement site (sampling location) has a sufficiently steady velocity profile (see ISO 15259);
- b) sampling is carried out without disturbance of the gas stream with a sharp edged nozzle facing into the stream under isokinetic conditions;
- c) samples are taken at a pre-selected number of stated positions in the measurement plane, to allow for a non-uniform distribution of dust in the duct;
- d) the sampling system is designed and operated to avoid condensation, chemical reactions and to minimize dust deposits upstream of the filter and to be leak free;
- e) sampling is carried out at an appropriate filtration temperature, e.g. stack temperature or at least the recommended temperature of 160 °C (see [Annex H](#));
- f) dust deposits upstream of the filter are taken into account;
- g) the field blank value does not exceed 10 % of the lowest emission limit value set for the process or 0,5 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, whichever is greater;
- h) the sampling and weighing procedures are adapted to the expected dust quantities;
- i) the expanded uncertainty calculated by means of an uncertainty budget does not exceed the corresponding specification in the measurement objective. For regulatory purposes the expanded uncertainty shall not exceed 20 % of the emission limit value specified by the authorities unless specified otherwise by the competent authorities.

NOTE The Industrial Emissions Directive of the European Union (IED) e.g. specifies a maximum permissible uncertainty of 30 % of the daily emission limit value (ELV) for automated dust measuring systems. This requires that the expanded uncertainty of the SRM is lower for calibration purposes.

[Annex D](#) provides a summary of the requirements for the application of this measurement method.

## 6 Measurement planning and sampling strategy

### 6.1 Measurement planning

Emission measurements at a plant shall be carried out such that the results are representative of the emissions from this plant for operating conditions specified in the measurement objective and comparable with results obtained for other comparable plants. Therefore, dust measurements shall be planned in accordance with ISO 15259.

Before carrying out any measurements, the purpose of the sampling and the sampling procedures shall be discussed with the plant personnel concerned. The nature of the plant process, e.g. steady-state or cyclic, can affect the sampling programme. If the process can be performed in a steady-state, it is important that this is maintained during sampling.

Dates, starting times, duration of survey and sampling periods as well as plant operating conditions during these periods shall be agreed with the plant management.

Preliminary calculations shall be made on the basis of expected dust concentration in order to verify that expected sampled dust quantities are consistent with attainable field blank values, and that no overloading of the filter occurs (see [Annex E](#)).

For sampling duration limited to 30 min, required for certain trial or regulatory purposes, the uncertainty of measurement can increase due to the limited sample volume. Furthermore, completion of sampling along two diameters within 30 min, even for medium size ducts, can require simultaneous sampling with two or more sampling systems.

Where possible, the sampling duration can be extended, which decreases the quantification limit and improves the measurement uncertainty (see [Annex E](#)). The sampling duration should be selected, to minimize the effect of non-steady-state conditions of the stationary source.

Taking into account the objective of the measurements and the conditions of waste gases to be sampled, the user shall choose between an in-stack or an out-stack filtration device. If gas in the duct contains droplets out-stack filtration devices shall be used.

A field blank shall be taken (see [9.7](#)).

If no suitable sampling location exists in the plant, and/or that measurements have been carried out during non-steady-state conditions of the plant, which leads to an increase of the uncertainty of the measurements, it shall be stated in the report.

## 6.2 Sampling strategy

### 6.2.1 General

Sampling requires a suitable measurement section and measurement plane.

The measurement plane shall be easily reached from convenient measurement ports and a safe working platform (see ISO 15259).

Sampling shall be carried out at a sufficient number of measurement points located on the measurement plane as specified by ISO 15259.

### 6.2.2 Measurement section and measurement plane

The measurement section and measurement plane shall meet the requirements of ISO 15259.

### 6.2.3 Minimum number and location of measurement points

The measurements shall be performed as grid measurements.

The dimensions of the measurement plane dictate the minimum number of measurement points. This number increases as the duct dimensions increase.

EN 15259 specifies the minimum number of measurement points to be used and the location in the measurement plane for circular and rectangular ducts. The number of measurement points and the location in the measurement plane shall be selected in accordance with ISO 15259.

### 6.2.4 Measurement ports and working platform

Measurement ports shall be provided for access to the measurement points selected in accordance with ISO 15259.

Examples of suitable measurement ports are given in ISO 15259.

For safety and practical reasons, the working platform shall comply with the requirements of ISO 15259.

## 7 Equipment and materials

### 7.1 Gas velocity, temperature, pressure and composition measurement devices

The equipment used for the point-related velocity measurements to establish isokinetic conditions shall meet the requirements of ISO 16911-1.

When expressing dust concentrations at standard conditions on a dry basis, and/or where the concentrations shall be expressed in relation to a reference oxygen concentration, the necessary measuring equipment shall meet the requirements of the applicable standards.

### 7.2 Sampling equipment

#### 7.2.1 Sampling system

The sampling system principally consists of:

- a) filtration device consisting of the filter housing and filter;
- b) entry nozzle;
- c) suction tube for out-stack filtration devices;
- d) gas pump;
- e) gas metering device including cooling and drying system and system for controlling isokinetic sampling conditions.

All parts of the sampling system which come in contact with the sampled gas shall be made of corrosion resistant and, if necessary, heat resistant material, e.g. stainless steel, titanium, quartz or glass.

If further analysis of collected dust is to be performed, materials in contact with the sample gas and the filter should be fit for purpose to avoid contamination.

The surfaces of parts upstream the filter shall be smooth and the number of joints shall be kept to a minimum.

Any changes in bore diameter shall be smoothly tapered and not stepped.

The sampling equipment shall also be designed in order to facilitate the cleaning of internal parts upstream the filter.

All parts of the sampling system which come in contact with the sample gas shall be protected from contamination e.g. during handling and transportation.

#### 7.2.2 Filtration device

##### 7.2.2.1 General

The filtration device consists of the filter housing and the filter.

The filtration device is either located in the duct (in-stack filtration) or placed outside the duct (out-stack filtration):

- a) in-stack filtration devices (see [Figure 3](#)):

The part of the tubing between nozzle and filter should be very short, thereby minimizing dust deposits upstream of the filter. Due to available access port dimensions on ducts, the filter diameter is then typically limited to 50 mm, with a sample flow rate of approximately 1 m<sup>3</sup>/h to 3 m<sup>3</sup>/h. Since the filtration temperature is generally identical to that of the gas in the duct, filter clogging can occur if the stack gas contains water droplets.