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# INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO  
3400

Second edition  
1989-07-01

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## Cigarettes — Determination of alkaloids in smoke condensates — Spectrometric method

*Cigarettes — Détermination des alcaloïdes dans les condensats de fumée —  
Méthode spectrométrique*



Reference number  
ISO 3400 : 1989 (E)

# Cigarettes — Determination of alkaloids in smoke condensates — Spectrometric method

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the spectrometric determination of alkaloids in cigarette smoke condensates.

The method is applicable to methanolic or iso-propanolic solutions of cigarette smoke condensates.

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 3308 : 1986, *Cigarettes — Routine analytical cigarette-smoking machine — Definitions and standard conditions*.

ISO 3401 : —<sup>1)</sup>, *Cigarettes — Determination of alkaloid retention by the filters*.

ISO 4387 : 1987, *Cigarettes — Determination of total and dry particulate matter using a routine analytical cigarette-smoking machine — Glass fibre filter smoke trap method*.

ISO 8243 : 1988, *Cigarettes — Sampling*.

ISO 8453 : 1987, *Cigarettes — Determination of total and dry particulate matter using a routine analytical cigarette-smoking machine — Electrostatic smoke trap method*.

## 3 Principle

Steam distillation of an aliquot portion of the methanolic or iso-propanolic solution of a cigarette smoke condensate in two steps. Acidification of the solution with a mineral acid and

removal of neutral and acid steam-volatile substances by distillation followed by making the same solution strongly alkaline and distillation of the alkaloids. Spectrometric measurement of the absorbance of the distillate from the alkaline distillation and calculation of the alkaloid content expressed as nicotine.

## 4 Reagents

Use only reagents of recognized analytical grade and distilled water or water of at least equivalent purity.

4.1 Sodium hydroxide, solution,  $c(\text{NaOH}) = 8 \text{ mol/l}$ .

4.2 Sulfuric acid, solution,  $c(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 1 \text{ mol/l}$ .

4.3 Sulfuric acid, solution,  $c(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 0,025 \text{ mol/l}$ .

4.4 Nicotine, minimum purity 98 %.

## 5 Apparatus

Usual laboratory apparatus and the following items:

5.1 Steam distillation apparatus, as described in ISO 3401 or any other apparatus giving the same results.

Test the system according to the indicated procedure (7) with the pure nicotine solution (4.4) at the maximum expected level. Recovery shall be at least 98 % of the theoretical value. If not, optimize by modification of the distillation rate.

For routine tests it is possible to use nicotine salt calibrated against the pure nicotine (4.4).

5.2 Spectrometer, covering a wavelength range from 230 nm to 290 nm.

1) To be published.