
**Nuclear fuel technology — Guidelines
on the measurement of the specific
surface area of uranium oxide
powders by the BET method**

*Technologie du combustible nucléaire — Lignes directrices pour le
mesurage de l'aire massique (surface spécifique) des poudres d'oxyde
d'uranium par la méthode BET*

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Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	1
4.1 Summary of the BET method	1
4.2 Isothermal adsorption curves	1
4.3 Conditions and assumptions	2
5 Procedure	3
5.1 Sample preparation	3
5.2 Volumetric measurement	3
5.3 Gravimetric measurement	3
5.4 Original and single-point methods	3
5.5 Dynamic method (carrier gas method)	4
5.6 Alternative methods	4
6 Expression of results	4
6.1 Methods of calculation	4
6.1.1 Multipoint determination	4
6.1.2 Single-point determination	7
6.2 Precision and accuracy	7
7 Test report	7
Bibliography	8

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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 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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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12800:2003), which has been technically revised.

Nuclear fuel technology — Guidelines on the measurement of the specific surface area of uranium oxide powders by the BET method

1 Scope

This document gives guidelines on the determination of the specific surface area of as-fabricated uranium dioxide powder by volumetric or gravimetric determination of the amount of nitrogen adsorbed on the powder, and can be applied to other similar materials, e.g. U_3O_8 , $\text{UO}_2\text{-PuO}_2$ powders, and other bodies with similar surface areas, e.g. powder granules or green pellets, provided that the conditions described are fulfilled. Modifications using other adsorbing gases are included.

The method is relevant as long as the expected value is in the range between $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and $10 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

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 <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Principle

4.1 Summary of the BET method

The BET method is based on the determination of the amount of gas necessary to cover the surface by a monomolecular layer. This amount is determined from the isothermal adsorption curve of nitrogen (N_2) at the temperature of liquid nitrogen (77,4 K) according to Reference [2]. The amount of N_2 adsorbed at a given pressure is determined by volumetric or gravimetric measurement[6]. In order to remove surface contamination of the adsorbent, the sample has to be evacuated and heated under appropriate conditions before the measurement is performed.

4.2 Isothermal adsorption curves

The isothermal adsorption curve describes the relationship between the mass of the adsorbate, m_A (N_2), adsorbed per gram of adsorbent (e.g. UO_2 powder) at an equilibrium pressure of p at constant temperature T , as shown in [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$m_A = f(p, T) \quad (1)$$

Generally, the relative pressure p/p_0 is introduced instead of the absolute pressure p , where p_0 is the saturation vapour pressure which is $1,013 \times 10^5 \text{ Pa}$ for nitrogen at 77,4 K.