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**Leather — Chemical determination of
chromium(VI) content in leather —**

**Part 2:
Chromatographic method**

*Cuir — Détermination chimique de la teneur en chrome(VI) du cuir —
Partie 2: Méthode chromatographique*

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ISO copyright office
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11
Fax +41 22 749 09 47
copyright@iso.org
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 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).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html

ISO 17075-2 was prepared by the Chemical Test Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUC Commission, IULTCS) in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, the secretariat of which is held by UNI, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for the sampling and testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

This first edition of ISO 17075-2, together with ISO 17075-1, cancels and replaces ISO 17075:2007, which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to ISO 17075:2007 are as follows:

- the chromatographic analytical technique has been added;
- the sample preparation has been revised;
- mechanical shaking in [7.1](#) and [7.2](#) has been revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO 17075 series can be found on the ISO website.

Leather — Chemical determination of chromium(VI) content in leather —

Part 2: Chromatographic method

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for determining chromium(VI) in solutions leached from leather under defined conditions. The method described is suitable to quantify the chromium(VI) content in leathers down to 3 mg/kg.

This document is applicable to all leather types.

The results obtained from this method are strictly dependent on the extraction conditions. Results obtained by using other extraction procedures (extraction solution, pH, extraction time, etc.) are not comparable with the results produced by the procedure described in this document.

If a leather sample is tested with both ISO 17075-1 and this document, the results obtained with this document are considered as the reference. The advantage of the method described in this document is that there are no interferences from the colour of the extract. Nevertheless, interlaboratory trials do not show significant differences (see [Annex D](#)) and the results are comparable between both methods.

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 2418, *Leather — Chemical, physical and mechanical and fastness tests — Sampling location*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 4044:2017, *Leather — Chemical tests — Preparation of chemical test samples*

ISO 4684, *Leather — Chemical tests — Determination of volatile matter*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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/>

3.1

chromium(VI) content

amount of chromium(VI) in leather determined after extraction with an aqueous salt solution at pH 7,0 to 8,0

Note 1 to entry: The chromium(VI) content is reported as chromium(VI) in milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), expressed as the dry mass of the sample.

4 Principle

Extractable chromium(VI) is leached from the sample in phosphate buffer at pH 7,0 to 8,0. An aliquot of the filtered extract is analysed for Cr(VI) using ion-exchange chromatography with UV-VIS detection.

5 Chemicals

All reagents used shall have at least analytical grade purity.

5.1 Extraction solution

Dissolve 22,8 g dipotassium hydrogenphosphate $K_2HPO_4 \cdot 3H_2O$ in 1 000 ml water (5.7), adjusted to $pH\ 8,0 \pm 0,1$ with phosphoric acid (5.2). Degas this solution with either argon or nitrogen (5.6) or ultrasonic bath.

Standard practice is to make up a fresh solution each day. However, the solution can be kept for up to one week in a refrigerator at $(4 \pm 3)^\circ C$ but shall be warmed to room temperature and degassed prior to use.

5.2 Phosphoric acid solution

700 ml *o*-phosphoric acid, $\rho = 1,71\text{ g/ml}$, made up to 1 000 ml with water (5.7).

First add approximately 200 ml of deionised water (5.7) to a 1 000 ml volumetric flask, then add the 700 ml of *o*-phosphoric acid and dilute to the mark with deionised water.

5.3 Potassium dichromate ($K_2Cr_2O_7$), dried for (16 ± 2) h at $(102 \pm 2)^\circ C$.

5.4 Chromium(VI) stock solution

Dissolve 2,829 g potassium dichromate ($K_2Cr_2O_7$) (5.3) in water (5.7) in a volumetric flask and make up to 1 000 ml with water (5.7). One millilitre of this solution contains 1 mg of chromium.

A stock solution at this concentration level of hexavalent chromium is an alternative available commercially.

5.5 Chromium(VI) standard solution

Pipette 1 ml of solution (5.4) into a 1 000 ml volumetric flask and make up to the mark with extraction solution (5.1). One millilitre of this solution contains $1\ \mu g$ of chromium.

The solution can be kept for up to one week in a refrigerator at $(4 \pm 3)^\circ C$ but shall be warmed to room temperature prior to use.

A stock solution of hexavalent chromium at this concentration level is an alternative available commercially.

5.6 Argon or nitrogen, oxygen-free

Preference should be given to argon as an inert gas instead of nitrogen because argon has a higher specific mass than air.

5.7 Distilled or deionised water, Grade 3 quality as specified in ISO 3696.

6 Apparatus and materials

Usual laboratory equipment and, in particular, the following.

- 6.1 **Suitable mechanical orbital shaker**, $(100 \pm 10) \text{ min}^{-1}$.
- 6.2 **Conical flask**, of capacity 250 ml, with stopper.
- 6.3 **Aeration tube** and **flow meter**, suitable for a flow rate of $(50 \pm 10) \text{ ml/min}$.
- 6.4 **Membrane filter**, $0,45 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ pore size [polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or polyamide 66].
- 6.5 **Common laboratory glassware** and **pipettes**.
- 6.6 **Ion-exchange chromatograph, with UV detector** or **high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) with anion-exchange column and UV detector**. It is recommended a photo diode array detector (DAD).
- 6.7 **Analytical balance**, capable of weighing to 0,1 mg.
- 6.8 **Suitable vials for HPLC**.
- 6.9 **Sharp cutting tool** or **blade**, suitable for cutting the leather into 3 mm to 5 mm pieces.

7 Procedure

7.1 Sampling and preparation of samples

If possible, sample in accordance with ISO 2418. If sampling in accordance with ISO 2418 is not possible (e.g. leathers from finished products like shoes, garments), details about sampling shall be given in the test report.

Prepare the leather sample by cutting (6.9) into small pieces according to the method specified in ISO 4044:2017, 6.3.

7.2 Preparation of analytical solution

Weigh (6.7) approximately $(2 \pm 0,1) \text{ g}$ of leather pieces to the nearest 0,001 g. Pipette 100 ml of degassed solution (5.1) into a 250 ml conical flask (6.2). Displace oxygen by passing oxygen-free argon (or nitrogen) (5.6) into the flask for 5 min with a volume flow of $(50 \pm 10) \text{ ml/min}$. Remove the aeration tube (6.3), add the leather and close the flask with a stopper. Record the extract volume as V_0 .

Shake the conical flask with the leather pieces for $3 \text{ h} \pm 5 \text{ min}$ on a mechanical orbital shaker at $(100 \pm 10) \text{ min}^{-1}$ (6.1) at room temperature to extract the chromium(VI).

Shake the suspension in a smooth circular movement to keep the leather pieces from adhering to the wall of the flask and avoid shaking faster than specified.

Immediately after completing the 3 h of extraction, filter the contents of the conical flask through a membrane filter into a glass or plastic vessel with lid. Check the pH of the solution. The pH of the solution shall be between 7,0 and 8,0. If the pH of the solution is not within this range, start the complete procedure again.

Consider using a smaller sample mass, if the pH is not between 7,0 and 8,0. In this case, the quantification limit will be increased.

Transfer an aliquot of the filtered extract into a vial (6.8).