



**International  
Standard**

**ISO 18227**

**Environmental solid matrices —  
Determination of elemental  
composition by X-ray fluorescence  
spectrometry**

*Matrices solides environnementales — Détermination de la  
composition élémentaire par spectrométrie de fluorescence X*

**Second edition  
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# Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Safety remarks</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Principle</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6 Apparatus</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7 Reagents</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 Interferences and sources of error</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9 Sample preparation</b>	<b>5</b>
9.1 General	5
9.2 Drying and determination of dry mass	5
9.3 Preparation of pressed pellet	6
9.4 Preparation of fused beads	6
<b>10 Procedure</b>	<b>7</b>
10.1 Analytical measurement conditions	7
10.1.1 Wavelength dispersive instruments	7
10.1.2 Intensities and background corrections	7
10.1.3 Counting time	7
10.1.4 Energy dispersive instruments	7
10.1.5 Intensities and background corrections	7
10.2 Calibration	7
10.2.1 General	7
10.2.2 General calibration procedure	8
10.2.3 Internal standard correction using Compton (incoherent) scattering method	8
10.2.4 Fundamental parameter approach	9
10.2.5 Fundamental or theoretical influence coefficient method	9
10.2.6 Empirical alpha correction	10
10.2.7 Calibration procedure for trace elements using the pressed pellet method	10
10.2.8 Calibration procedure for major and minor oxides using the fused bead method	12
10.3 Analysis of the samples	13
<b>11 Quality control</b>	<b>13</b>
11.1 Drift correction procedure	13
11.2 Blank test	13
11.3 Reference materials	13
11.4 Performance data	14
<b>12 Calculation of the result</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>13 Test report</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Annex A (informative) Semi-quantitative screening analysis of waste, sludge and soil samples</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Examples for operational steps of the sample preparation for soil and waste samples</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Suggested analytical lines, crystals and operating conditions</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Annex D (informative) List of reference materials applicable for XRF analysis</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Annex E (informative) Validation</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>37</b>

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

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 190, *Soil quality*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Chemical and physical characterization*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 444, *Environmental characterization of solid matrices*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18227:2014), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the contents of the two almost identical standards ISO 18277:2014 and EN 15309:2007 have been combined;
- normative references have been revised.

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

X-ray fluorescence (XRF) spectrometry is a fast and reliable method for the quantitative analysis of the total content of certain elements within different matrices.

The quality of the results obtained depends very closely on the type of instrument used, e.g. bench top or high performance, energy dispersive or wavelength dispersive instruments. When selecting a specific instrument several factors should be considered, such as the matrices to be analysed, elements to be determined, detection limits required and the measuring time. The quality of the results depends on the element to be determined and on the surrounding matrix.

Due to the wide range of matrix compositions and the lack of suitable reference materials in the case of inhomogeneous matrices such as waste, it is generally difficult to set up a calibration with matrix- matched reference materials.

Therefore, this document describes two different procedures:

- a quantitative analytical procedure required for homogeneous solid waste, soil and soil-like material, where the calibration is based on matrix-matched standards;
- an optional XRF screening method for solid and liquid material as waste, sludge and soil in [Annex A](#) which provides a total element characterization at a semi-quantitative level, where the calibration is based on matrix-independent calibration curves, previously set up by the manufacturer.

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