
**Ships and marine technology —
Marine environment protection —
Specifications on design and selection
of sorbents**

*Navires et technologie maritime — Protection de l'environnement
marin — Spécifications relatives à la conception et à la sélection des
sorbants*

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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

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Introduction

Sorbents are used to recover oil by absorption and/or adsorption. To enhance recovery, most sorbents are both oleophilic and hydrophobic. Additionally, there are sorbents which are either oleophilic or hydrophobic only for use with industrial spills. This document addresses applications pertaining to marine oil spills.

In general, the use of sorbents is only appropriate for the removal of thin oil layers. Sorbents can also be used to protect and/or clean environmentally sensitive areas, where the use of other cleaning equipment is restricted because of the possible damage it can produce.

This document does not refer to loose or bulk sorbents, which should not be used in open waters, because their use, especially with very thin oil layers, is inefficient, but involves the risk of uncontrolled proliferation, and thus subsequent pollution, which may be greater than the original oil pollution.

This document gives some general guidelines for manufacturers as well as users with regard to producing, purchasing, and using such types of material. It will not define any specific type and size of sorbent for a particular application, as so many variables have to be taken into consideration.

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