



**International  
Standard**

**ISO 20846**

**Petroleum and related products —  
Determination of sulfur content  
of automotive fuels — Ultraviolet  
fluorescence method**

*Produits pétroliers et connexes — Détermination de la teneur  
en soufre des carburants pour automobiles — Méthode par  
fluorescence ultraviolette*

**Fourth edition  
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# Contents

	Page
Foreword.....	iv
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>4 Principle</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Reagents and materials</b> .....	<b>2</b>
5.1 Inert gas.....	2
5.2 Oxygen.....	2
5.3 Solvent.....	2
5.4 Sulfur compounds.....	2
5.5 Sulfur stock solution.....	3
5.6 Calibration standards.....	3
5.7 Quality control samples.....	3
5.8 Quartz wool.....	4
<b>6 Apparatus</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>7 Sampling and sample handling</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>8 Apparatus preparation</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>9 Apparatus calibration and verification</b> .....	<b>6</b>
9.1 Multi-point calibration.....	6
9.2 Single point calibration.....	8
9.3 Verification.....	8
<b>10 Procedure</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>11 Calculation</b> .....	<b>9</b>
11.1 Using multi-point calibration.....	9
11.2 Using one-point calibration.....	10
11.3 Calculation.....	10
<b>12 Expression of results</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>13 Precision</b> .....	<b>11</b>
13.1 General.....	11
13.2 Repeatability, <i>r</i> .....	11
13.3 Reproducibility, <i>R</i> .....	11
13.4 Precision estimates.....	12
<b>14 Test report</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>13</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 document 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)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, 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 [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 19, *Gaseous and liquid fuels, lubricants and related products of petroleum, synthetic and biological origin*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 20846:2019), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the extension of the application scope to include higher blends of biodiesel (FAME) from 50 % up to neat FAME (B100);
- further instructions regarding the (validity of the) multi-point calibration have been implemented.

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).

# Petroleum and related products — Determination of sulfur content of automotive fuels — Ultraviolet fluorescence method

**WARNING** — The use of this document can involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of users of this document to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety and health of personnel prior to application of the document and fulfil other applicable requirements for this purpose.

## 1 Scope

This document specifies an ultraviolet (UV) fluorescence test method for the determination of the sulfur content of the following products:

- having sulfur contents in the range 3 mg/kg to 500 mg/kg:
  - motor gasolines containing up to a mass fraction of 3,7 % (3,7 % ( $m/m$ )) of oxygen [including those blended with a volume fraction of ethanol up to about 10 % (10 % ( $V/V$ ))];
  - diesel fuels, including those containing up to a volume fraction of about 50 % of fatty acid methyl ester (FAME);
- having sulfur contents in the range of 3 mg/kg to 45 mg/kg:
  - synthetic fuels, such as hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO) and gas to liquid (GTL);
- having sulfur contents in the range of 3 mg/kg to 30 mg/kg:
  - neat FAME (B100) and diesel fuels containing volume fraction of more than 50 % of FAME.

Other products (for example process feeds and effluents) can be analysed and other sulfur contents can be determined according to this test method, however, no precision data for products other than automotive fuels and for results outside the specified range have been established for this document. Halogens interfere with this detection technique at concentrations above approximately 3 500 mg/kg.

## 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 1042, *Laboratory glassware — One-mark volumetric flasks*

ISO 3170, *Hydrocarbon Liquids — Manual sampling*

ISO 3171, *Petroleum liquids — Automatic pipeline sampling*

ISO 3675, *Crude petroleum and liquid petroleum products — Laboratory determination of density — Hydrometer method*

ISO 12185, *Crude petroleum, petroleum products and related products — Determination of density — Laboratory density meter with an oscillating U-tube sensor*