



**International
Standard**

ISO 26603

**Plastics — Aromatic isocyanates
for use in the production of
polyurethanes — Determination of
total chlorine**

*Plastiques — Isocyanates aromatiques destinés à la production
de polyuréthanes — Dosage du chlore total*

**Third edition
2026-04**

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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 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).

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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.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 12, *Thermosetting materials*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 26603:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Test Method C has been added:
 - in [Clause 4](#), a new [subclause 4.4](#) has been added;
 - a new [Clause 9](#) has been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered.

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.

Introduction

Isocyanates are typically produced by phosgenation of an aromatic amine using chlorine-substituted benzenes (e.g. o-dichlorobenzene) as reaction solvents. ISO 15028 is used to determine the hydrolyzable chlorine content of the isocyanates. The test methods in this document are used to determine the total chlorine content of aromatic isocyanates. The difference between the total chlorine content and the hydrolyzable chlorine content is a measure of the reaction solvents left in the product, and therefore is a useful tool for assessing product quality.

NOTE This document is technically equivalent to ASTM D4661-03.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice, if applicable. This document does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this document to establish appropriate safety and health practices, and to determine any regulatory requirements before use.

1 Scope

This document specifies the determination of the total chlorine content of aromatic isocyanates used in the preparation of polyurethanes.

The difference between the total chlorine content and the hydrolyzable chlorine content (see ISO 15028) is a measure of the process solvents left in the product. All the test methods are applicable to a variety of organic compounds, including aliphatic isocyanates, but the amount of sample used might need to be adjusted.

These test methods can be used for research or for quality control.

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

ISO 6353-2, *Reagents for chemical analysis — Part 2: Specifications — First series*

ISO 6353-3, *Reagents for chemical analysis — Part 3: Specifications — Second series*

3 Terms and definitions

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

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

isocyanate

organic compound containing one or more NCO groups

3.2

polyurethane

polymer prepared by the reaction of an organic di- or polyisocyanate with compounds containing two or more hydroxyl groups