



FINAL DRAFT International Standard

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Water quality — Analysis of microplastic in water —

Part 2:

Vibrational spectroscopy methods for waters with low content of suspended solids including drinking water

Qualité de l'eau — Analyse des microplastiques dans l'eau —

*Partie 2: Méthodes de spectroscopie vibrationnelle pour les eaux
à faible teneur en matières en suspension, y compris l'eau potable*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	2
3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations	2
3.1 Terms and definitions	2
3.2 Abbreviations	3
4 Principle	4
5 Interferences	4
6 Reagents, consumables and reference materials	4
6.1 General	4
6.2 Particle-free water of known quality	4
6.3 Surfactant solution	5
6.4 Ethanol	5
6.5 Plastic reference material	5
6.6 Containers for filter storage	5
7 Precautions for the laboratory environment, equipment and materials	5
7.1 Operating precautions linked to the laboratory environment	5
7.2 Equipment	5
7.2.1 General	5
7.2.2 Infrared (IR) apparatus coupled to microscope	5
7.2.3 Raman coupled to microscope	6
7.2.4 Filtration system	6
7.2.5 Characteristics of filters: type and sizes	7
7.3 Precautions and cleaning protocol for materials	7
7.4 Bottles or containers for sampling	7
8 Sampling	8
9 Operating protocol	8
9.1 Volume of test sample	8
9.2 Sample filtration protocol	8
9.3 Analytical control blanks	9
9.4 Adjustment and calibration of instruments	9
9.4.1 Infrared microscope	9
9.4.2 Raman microscope	9
9.5 Cartesian coordinates of analysed particles	10
9.6 Analysis of the filter surface	10
9.6.1 General	10
9.6.2 Choice of the optical objectives	10
9.6.3 Selection of particles to be analysed or choice of the analysed surface area	10
9.6.4 TOTAL Model	10
9.6.5 RANDOM Model	11
9.6.6 CAKE Model	11
9.6.7 SPIRAL or HELIX Model	12
9.6.8 Particles enumeration and size description	12
9.6.9 IR spectra acquisition and particle identification	12
9.6.10 Raman spectral acquisition and particle identification	13
9.7 Sampling and analytical control blank analysis	13
9.8 Spectra treatment	13
9.9 Criteria of chemical composition identification	14
9.10 Spectral interferences	14
9.10.1 General	14

9.10.2	Pigments or dyes	15
9.10.3	Polyamide versus natural proteins.....	15
9.10.4	Polyethylene versus other molecules with long CH-chain	15
10	Method characterization and verification	15
10.1	General.....	15
10.2	Verification of the particle size measurement accuracy	15
10.3	Verification of microplastics identification and classification at claimed size	15
10.4	Determination of minimal HQI for automatic identification	16
10.5	Determination of the reporting limits of the method.....	16
10.6	Verification of microplastics recovery rate of the method	17
11	Quality check of analytical control blanks in test series.....	17
12	Expression of results	18
13	Test report.....	18
Annex A (informative)	List of characteristic wavenumbers for the main polymers	20
Annex B (informative)	Creation of an internal spectral database	23
Annex C (informative)	Description of known interference during acquisition of spectral fingerprint — Presence of pigments.....	26
Annex D (informative)	Description of known interference during acquisition of spectral fingerprint — Interference between natural and synthetic polyamides (proteins and polyamide 6-6).....	27
Annex E (informative)	Description of a known interference during acquisition of a spectral fingerprint – Interferences of molecules with long CH-chain.....	29
Annex F (informative)	Quantum Cascade Laser (QCL) IR microscopy	32
Annex G (informative)	Performance data.....	33
Bibliography		35

Foreword

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Introduction

Pollution linked to microplastics is recognized as a global phenomenon. The standardization of the sampling, quantification and identification protocols is required to ensure reliability and comparability of the data produced for health and environmental risk assessments.

Microplastics in water can be identified and quantified using various methodological approaches. Depending on the measurement objectives, several complementary approaches shall be used to cover the full spectrum of microplastics (size and chemical nature). [Table 1](#) resumes the characteristics and the information obtained with spectroscopic techniques.

Table 1 — Characteristics of the various analytical techniques and information obtained.

Characteristics and information obtained	Raman micro spectroscopy	Infrared micro spectroscopy
Type of sample	Water filtrate residues	
Chemical nature of the polymer	Yes	
Information provided by analytical technique	Functional groups	
Results expression	Polymer type, number of particles, size of particles	
Minimum measurable size range of particles	1 µm to 5 µm	20 µm
Minimum mass subject to measurement after preparation	Undefined	
Consequences for the test sample after measurement	Non-destructive	
Main interferences	mineral particles, coloured particles, pigments, fluorescence, fatty acids, fatty amides, proteins, surface alterations by biofilms or weathering, carbohydrates, generated by microbes	mineral particles, proteins, surface alterations by biofilms or weathering, particles loaded with carbon black, presence of water, carbohydrates generated by microbes

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