
**Water quality — Determination of
arsenic(III) and arsenic(V) species
— Method using high performance
liquid chromatography (HPLC) with
detection by inductively coupled
plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-
MS) or hydride generation atomic
fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS)**

*Qualité de l'eau — Détermination des formes chimiques (III) et (V)
d'arsenic — Méthode par chromatographie en phase liquide à haute
performance (HPLC) avec détection par spectrométrie de masse
par torche à plasma (ICP-MS) ou génération d'hydrure fluorescence
atomique (HG-AFS)*

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Published in Switzerland

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Principle	3
5 Interferences	3
6 Apparatus	3
7 Reagents and standards	4
8 Sampling, preservation and storage of samples	6
9 Procedure	6
9.1 HPLC instrument optimization	6
9.2 Calibration	7
9.3 Sample measurement	7
10 Expression of results	7
11 Test report	8
Annex A (normative) Detection using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)	9
Annex B (normative) Detection using hydride generation atomic fluorescence (HG-AFS)	20
Annex C (informative) Determination of organic arsenic species	27
Annex D (informative) Storage and preservation of arsenic species in water samples	29
Bibliography	40

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

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Introduction

In the environment, metals and metalloids are found in the form of various chemical species. Chemical speciation makes it possible to identify and quantify these different species. For the same metal or metalloid, given that the toxicity of each compound may vary significantly, it can be useful to quantify each of the species present in a given sample. For arsenic, the toxicity of the various species varies considerably; inorganic species are recognized as being more toxic than organic species and, for example, the toxicity of As(III) is greater than that of As(V). This method is primarily applicable to the determination of arsenite (As(III)) and arsenate (As(V)) as these are the main species of interest and are the predominant species found in potable water samples from the underlying geological strata in many parts of the world. Arsenic speciation measurements are important to establish and select the best water treatment technology for arsenic removal from raw waters containing significant levels of arsenic.

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