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Hydrocarbon Liquids - Manual Sampling (ISO 3170:2025)

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Flüssige Mineralölerzeugnisse - Manuelle Probenahme (ISO 3170:2025)

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Ref. No. EN ISO 3170:2025 E

Contents	Page
European foreword.....	3

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European foreword

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**International
Standard**

ISO 3170

**Hydrocarbon Liquids — Manual
sampling**

Hydrocarbures liquides — Échantillonnage manuel

**Fourth edition
2025-06**

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ISO 3170:2025(en)

Contents

	Page
Foreword	vi
Introduction	vii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Safety	5
4.1 General.....	5
4.2 Safety aspects of equipment.....	6
4.3 Safety at sampling points.....	6
4.4 Entry into enclosed (confined) spaces.....	7
4.5 Electrical safety.....	8
4.5.1 Static electricity.....	8
4.5.2 Electronic and electrical equipment.....	8
5 Sampling	8
5.1 General.....	8
5.2 Typical locations from where samples are drawn.....	9
5.2.1 Tank sampling.....	9
5.2.2 Line sampling.....	10
5.3 Restricted opening/vapour trap sampling.....	10
5.4 Representative samples.....	10
5.5 Homogeneity.....	10
6 Equipment	11
6.1 General.....	11
6.2 Types of tank samplers.....	11
6.2.1 General.....	11
6.2.2 Spot samplers.....	11
6.2.3 Zone samplers/flow-through samplers.....	11
6.2.4 Running samplers.....	11
6.2.5 All-level samplers.....	12
6.2.6 Bottom samplers.....	13
6.2.7 Dead bottom samplers.....	13
6.2.8 Residue samplers (sediment samplers).....	13
6.3 Samplers used for open sampling methods in tanks.....	13
6.3.1 General.....	13
6.3.2 Sampling can/thief.....	14
6.3.3 Sampling cage and bottle.....	14
6.3.4 Dead bottom sampler.....	16
6.3.5 Zone or core sampler.....	18
6.4 Samplers used for restricted and closed sampling methods in tanks.....	21
6.4.1 General.....	21
6.4.2 Sampler for vapour pressure analysis.....	23
6.4.3 Vapour control valves.....	23
6.5 Other sampling devices.....	23
6.5.1 Tank side samplers.....	23
6.5.2 Pipeline samplers.....	23
6.5.3 Drum samplers.....	24
6.5.4 Sludge/sediment samplers.....	25
7 Sample container	28
7.1 General container design.....	28
7.2 Sample container material and type.....	28
7.2.1 General.....	28
7.2.2 Glass bottle.....	28

ISO 3170:2025(en)

	7.2.3	Plastic container.....	29
	7.2.4	Metal cans.....	29
	7.3	Container closures.....	29
8		Procedures.....	30
	8.1	General sampling practices.....	30
	8.2	General principles of sampling.....	30
	8.3	Tank sampling procedures.....	31
	8.3.1	Shore tank sampling.....	31
	8.3.2	Sampling from ships.....	35
	8.4	Procedure for manual sampling on pipeline.....	38
	8.4.1	General.....	38
	8.4.2	Spot sampling of high vapour pressure liquids.....	38
	8.5	Sampling from railcars.....	44
	8.6	Sampling from road tankers.....	44
	8.7	Sampling from drums or intermediate bulk containers.....	45
	8.7.1	General.....	45
	8.7.2	Tube sampling from drums.....	45
	8.7.3	IBC sampling.....	45
	8.7.4	Pump sampling.....	46
	8.7.5	Batch sampling.....	46
	8.8	Package sampling.....	46
	8.8.1	Statistical aspects of sampling packages.....	46
	8.8.2	Acceptable quality limit.....	47
	8.8.3	Inspection level.....	47
	8.8.4	Sampling plan.....	47
	8.8.5	Procedures for sampling packages.....	50
	8.9	Sampling from dispensers (retail).....	50
9		Requirements for specific products.....	51
	9.1	General.....	51
	9.2	Crude oil.....	51
	9.3	Naphtha, gasoline and other volatile liquid.....	52
	9.4	Aviation fuels.....	52
	9.5	Distillate fuels (excluding jet fuel).....	53
	9.6	Residual fuel oil (including marine bunker fuels).....	54
	9.6.1	Fuel oil.....	54
	9.6.2	Marine bunker fuel (residual fuel and marine distillates).....	54
	9.7	Bitumen.....	55
	9.8	Requirements for sampling for microbiological assay.....	55
	9.8.1	General.....	55
	9.8.2	General recommendations for sampling fuel facilities.....	55
	9.8.3	Tank water phase sample.....	55
	9.8.4	Bulk fuel phase sample.....	55
	9.8.5	Sampling procedure.....	56
	9.8.6	Monitoring regimes for terminals and distribution systems.....	56
10		Sample handling.....	57
	10.1	General.....	57
	10.2	Sample transfer.....	57
	10.3	Labelling.....	57
	10.4	Sample transportation.....	58
	10.5	External influences.....	58
	10.5.1	General.....	58
	10.5.2	Temperature.....	58
	10.5.3	Light.....	59
	10.5.4	Time.....	59
	10.5.5	First test requirements.....	60
	10.6	Homogenizing samples.....	60
	10.6.1	General.....	60

ISO 3170:2025(en)

10.6.2	None (no mixing)	60
10.6.3	Shaking	60
10.6.4	Power mixers	60
10.7	Verification of mixing efficiency	62
10.7.1	General	62
10.7.2	Homogeneous liquids	62
10.7.3	Non-homogeneous liquids	62
10.7.4	Mixing efficiency verification test for non-homogeneous oils (injection/ recovery test)	62
10.8	Selection of sample mixing method	63
10.9	Compositing samples	64
10.10	Retained samples	64
Bibliography		65

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ISO 3170:2025(en)

Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 28, *Petroleum and related products, fuels and lubricants from natural or synthetic sources*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Measurement of petroleum and related products*, 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 3170:2004), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- document title amended to reflect the expanded scope of the document for non-petroleum liquids;
- inclusion of an equal representation of the closed and restricted sampling devices in addition to the traditional open sampling devices;
- expanded [Clause 3](#) and the Bibliography;
- added [Clause 4](#).

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ISO 3170:2025(en)

Introduction

This document can be used in conjunction with ISO 3171.

This document specifies standard conditions and methods for obtaining samples of liquid/semi-liquid hydrocarbons from a tank, drum or pipeline by manual means. If the hydrocarbon to be sampled is non-homogeneous, showing significant variations in composition or containing sediments and water, samples taken manually should not be expected to be representative, but can enable the degree of non-homogeneity to be assessed and estimates of quality and quantity to be made.

The procedures specified in this document are intended to minimize or eliminate losses of light ends from samples. Such losses can occur during the handling or transfer of samples, thereby making them non-representative of the bulk.

The procedures specified provide samples for:

- a) the determination of the liquid/hydrocarbon quality;
- b) the determination of the water content;
- c) the determination of other contaminants that are not considered to be part of the liquid hydrocarbon.

If the sampling conditions for purposes a), b) and c) are in conflict, separate samples are required.

The sampling procedures for tank contents that are not homogeneous specified in this document are intended to enable the degree of non-homogeneity to be assessed and estimates of quality and quantity to be made.

Procedures for the sampling of liquid hydrocarbons from tanks under inert gas pressure are included, together with techniques for sampling from tanks which are equipped with vapour emission control systems.

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