



BSI Standards Publication

**Stationary source emissions — Manual method
for the determination of the mass concentration
of formaldehyde — Reference method**

National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EH/2/1, Stationary source emission.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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English Version

**Stationary source emissions - Manual method for the
determination of the mass concentration of formaldehyde
- Reference method**

Emissions de sources fixes - Méthode manuelle pour la
détermination de la concentration massique en
formaldéhyde - Méthode de référence

Emissionen aus stationären Quellen - Manuelles
Verfahren zur Bestimmung der Massenkonzentration
von Formaldehyd - Referenzverfahren

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Contents

Page

European foreword.....	4
Introduction	5
1 Scope.....	6
2 Normative references.....	6
3 Terms and definitions	6
4 Symbols and abbreviations	11
5 Principle	11
6 Sampling strategy.....	11
6.1 General.....	11
6.2 Non-isokinetic sampling.....	12
6.3 Isokinetic sampling with a side stream.....	12
7 Sampling equipment.....	13
7.1 Sampling probe.....	13
7.1.1 Non-isokinetic sampling.....	13
7.1.2 Isokinetic sampling	13
7.1.3 Particle filter.....	13
7.2 Absorbers.....	14
7.3 Sampling pump	16
7.4 Gas volume meter	16
7.5 Filter housing.....	17
7.6 Temperature controller.....	17
7.7 Suction and volume flow meter	17
7.8 Additional apparatus.....	18
7.9 Additional apparatus for isokinetic sampling: Connection to the main line.....	18
7.10 Materials.....	18
7.11 Absorption solution.....	18
8 Performance characteristics of the method.....	18
8.1 General.....	18
8.2 Performance characteristics and performance criteria of the sampling system	19
8.3 Performance characteristics of the analysis	20
8.3.1 Sources of uncertainty.....	20
8.3.2 Performance criterion of analysis	20
8.4 Establishment of the uncertainty budget.....	21
9 Sampling procedure.....	21
9.1 Preparation and installation of equipment.....	21
9.1.1 Sampling location.....	21
9.1.2 Measurement point(s).....	21
9.1.3 Preparation	21
9.1.4 Checks.....	22
9.1.5 Sampling.....	22
9.1.6 Transport and storage of samples	23
9.1.7 Other parameters to be recorded	23

9.2	Validation of results	23
9.2.1	Parameters depending on the stationary source	23
9.2.2	Leak tests	24
9.2.3	Field blank	24
9.2.4	Other elements	24
10	Analysis	24
11	Calibration	25
11.1	General	25
11.2	Formaldehyde standard solution	25
11.3	Formaldehyde calibration solution	26
11.4	Determination of the calibration curve	26
12	Expression of results	27
13	Measurement report	27
	Annex A (normative) Analytical methods	29
	Annex B (informative) Measurement uncertainty	37
	Annex C (informative) Validation tests	45
	Bibliography	46

European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17638:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 264 “Air quality”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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Introduction

Formaldehyde is a carcinogenic pollutant that is generated in different industrial sectors, like energy industries (combustion plants (e.g. for wood and gas), combustion engines (gas engines and turbines)), chemical industry (e.g. formaldehyde production), food industry (e.g. smoking plants), wood industry (e.g. production of wood-based panels or wood pellets) and thus contained in emissions of these processes.

Currently, no European (EN) or International (ISO) Standard exists for the continuous or periodic measurement of formaldehyde emissions, which are being addressed, e.g. by the European Commission in its implementing decision 2015/2119 [1] establishing best available techniques (BAT) conclusions, under Directive 2010/75/EU [2], for the production of wood-based panels.

Instead, different national methods for formaldehyde measurements are currently applied, e.g. US EPA M316 [3], VDI 3862 Part 4 [4], VDI 3862 Part 6 [5], and FD X43-319 [6], all of them based on sampling in aqueous absorption solutions. Several comparison studies have shown that the equivalence of these methods is not ensured.

This measurement method is specified as a Technical Specification because currently no sufficient validation data are available. A comprehensive validation programme has been developed and will be carried out as soon as the funding is ensured (see Annex C).

1 Scope

This document specifies the reference method for the determination of the concentration of formaldehyde in emissions from stationary sources. Waste gas samples are taken by absorption in water and subsequently analysed by spectrophotometry or HPLC. The method applies to waste gases in which the formaldehyde concentration is 2 mg/m³ to 60 mg/m³, on dry basis, at the reference conditions of 273 K and 101,3 kPa.

The specific components and the requirements for the measuring system are described. A number of performance characteristics with associated minimum performance criteria are specified for the measuring system.

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.

EN 13284-1:2017, *Stationary source emissions - Determination of low range mass concentration of dust - Part 1: Manual gravimetric method*

EN 15259:2007, *Air quality - Measurement of stationary source emissions - Requirements for measurement sections and sites and for the measurement objective, plan and report*

EN ISO 14956, *Air quality – Evaluation of the suitability of a measurement procedure by comparison with a required measurement uncertainty (ISO 14956)*

ISO/IEC Guide 98-3:2008, *Uncertainty of measurement - Part 3: Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement (GUM:1995)*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

absorber

device in which formaldehyde is absorbed into an absorption solution

Note 1 to entry: For formaldehyde absorption wash bottles are used as absorbers.

3.2

limit of quantification

lowest amount of an analyte that is quantifiable with a given confidence level

Note 1 to entry: For a manual method the limit of quantification is usually calculated as ten times the standard deviation of blank measurements provided that the blank value is negligible. This corresponds to a confidence level of 95 %.