



BSI Standards Publication

## Inorganic fertilizers — Determination of chelating and complexing agents

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## National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CII/37, Fertilisers and related chemicals.

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

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION  
SPÉCIFICATION TECHNIQUE  
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**CEN/TS 17791**

April 2022

ICS 65.080

English Version

**Inorganic fertilizers - Determination of chelating and  
complexing agents**

Engrais inorganiques - Détermination des agents  
chélatants et complexants

Anorganische Düngemittel - Bestimmung von Chelat-  
und Komplexbildnern

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 13 March 2022 for provisional application.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
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## European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17791:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 260 “Fertilizers and liming materials” the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a Standardization Request given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

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## **Introduction**

Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [1] lays down the rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilizing products and the specific safety and quality requirements for the defined product function categories (PFCs).

Inorganic fertilizers have been classified into PFC 1(C), which has been divided into two groups PFC 1(C)(I) [inorganic macronutrients fertilizers] and PFC 1(C)(II) [inorganic micronutrient fertilizers].

Micronutrients are considered to be, in plant nutrition, a number of elements known to be needed in small amounts for proper plant growth and development. The most common are Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Molybdenum (Mo), Copper (Cu), Zinc (Zn) and Boron (B).

If an inorganic micronutrient fertilizer contains a substance, or one of the substances in the mixture, which is intended to enhance the long term availability to plants of micronutrients in the EU fertilizing product, that substance is either a chelating agent or a complexing agent.

The specific safety and quality requirements in relation to the determination of chelating and complexing agents in inorganic micronutrient fertilizers (PFC 1(C)(II)) are defined in this document as well as the normative references of the test methods to be used in order to measure the compliance with the related requirement in the Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [1].

## 1 Scope

This document specifies references to the methods for the determination of specific micronutrients, chelating and complexing agents. The document specifies references to the methods and requirements for inorganic micronutrient fertilizers in accordance with PFC 1 (C) (II) as specified in the Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 [1].

Inorganic micronutrient materials for this purpose are micronutrient salts or oxide and hydroxides, or micronutrient chelates or complexes and mixtures of them, in powder or granular form, aqueous or suspension preparation.

## 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 1482-1:2007, *Fertilizers and liming materials — Sampling and sample preparation — Part 1: Sampling*

EN 1482-2:2007, *Fertilizers and liming materials — Sampling and sample preparation — Part 2: Sample preparation*

EN 12944-1:1999<sup>1</sup>, *Fertilizers and liming materials — Vocabulary — Part 1: General terms*

EN 12944-2:1999<sup>2</sup>, *Fertilizers and liming materials — Vocabulary — Part 2: Terms relating to fertilizers*

EN 13368-1:2014, *Fertilizers — Determination of chelating agents in fertilizers by chromatography — Part 1: Determination of EDTA, HEEDTA and DTPA by ion chromatography*

EN 13368-2:2017, *Fertilizers — Determination of chelating agents in fertilizers by chromatography — Part 2: Determination of Fe chelated by [o,o] EDDHA, [o,o] EDDHMA and HBED, or the amount of chelating agents, by ion pair chromatography*

EN 13368-3:2017, *Fertilizers — Determination of chelating agents in fertilizers by chromatography — Part 3: Determination of [S,S]-EDDS by ion pair chromatography*

EN 15451:2008, *Fertilizers — Determination of chelating agents — Determination of iron chelated by EDDHSA by ion pair chromatography*

EN 15452:2008, *Fertilizers — Determination of chelating agents — Determination of iron chelated by o,p-EDDHA by reversed phase HPLC*

EN 15950:2010, *Fertilizers — Determination of N-(1,2-dicarboxyethyl)-D,L-aspartic acid (Iminodisuccinic acid, IDHA) using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)*

EN 15962:2011, *Fertilizers — Determination of the complexed micro-nutrient content and of the complexed fraction of micro-nutrients*

EN 16109:2011, *Fertilizers — Determination of complexed micro-nutrient ions in fertilizers — Identification of lignosulfonates*

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<sup>1</sup> As impacted by EN 12944-1:1999/AC:2000.

<sup>2</sup> As impacted by EN 12944-2:1999/AC:2000.