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BS ISO 17378-2:2014



BSI Standards Publication

Water quality — Determination of arsenic and antimony

Part 2: Method using hydride generation
atomic absorption spectrometry (HG-AAS)

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This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 17378-2:2014. It supersedes BS EN ISO 11969:1996 which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EH/3/2, Physical chemical and biochemical methods.

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

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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Water quality — Determination of arsenic and antimony —

Part 2: Method using hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry (HG- AAS)

Qualité de l'eau — Dosage de l'arsenic et de l'antimoine —

*Partie 2: Méthode par spectrométrie d'absorption atomique à
génération d'hydrures (HG-AAS)*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Principle	2
3.1 Arsenic.....	2
3.2 Antimony.....	2
4 Interferences	2
4.1 General.....	2
4.2 Arsenic.....	3
4.3 Antimony.....	3
5 Reagents	3
5.1 General requirements.....	3
6 Apparatus	8
7 Sampling and sample preparation	9
7.1 Sampling technique.....	9
7.2 Pre-reduction.....	9
8 Instrumental set up	10
9 Procedure	10
9.1 General requirements.....	10
9.2 Analysis using the method of standard calibration.....	11
9.3 Analysis using the standard addition method of calibration.....	11
10 Calibration and data analysis	12
10.1 General requirements.....	12
10.2 Calculation using the calibration curve.....	12
10.3 Calculation using the standard addition method.....	13
11 Expression of results	13
12 Test report	13
Annex A (informative) Additional information	14
Annex B (informative) Schematic flow diagram and signal response	15
Annex C (informative) Example of enrichment technique	17
Annex D (informative) Performance data	19
Bibliography	22

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

This first edition of ISO 17378-2 cancels and replaces ISO 11969:1996, which has been technically revised.

ISO 17378 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Determination of arsenic and antimony*:

- *Part 1: Method using hydride generation atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS)*
- *Part 2: Method using hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry (HG-AAS)*

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Introduction

This part of ISO 17378 should be used by analysts experienced in the handling of trace elements at very low concentrations.

Arsenic concentrations in natural waters are highly variable, from <10 µg/l to as high as several milligrams per litre in some parts of Asia, South America and the USA, notable in the Ganges delta where arsenic poisoning from contaminated tube wells is a serious problem. Antimony concentrations in natural waters are generally well below 10 µg/l. Arsenic and antimony occur naturally in organic and inorganic compounds and may have oxidation states -III, 0, III and V.

In order to fully decompose all of the arsenic or antimony compounds, a digestion procedure is necessary. Digestion can only be omitted if it is certain that the arsenic or antimony in the sample can form a covalent hydride without the necessity of a pre-oxidation step.

The user should be aware that particular problems could require the specification of additional marginal conditions.

The method for determining arsenic or antimony is identical in all aspects except for the preparation of standard solutions to be tested. To avoid repetition or duplication the text refers to both arsenic and antimony where the text is equally applicable to both instances. The subclause dealing with preparation of standard solutions is divided into [5.11.1](#), which deals with solutions of arsenic, and [5.11.2](#), which deals with solutions of antimony.

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Water quality — Determination of arsenic and antimony —

Part 2:

Method using hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry (HG-AAS)

WARNING — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted according to this document be carried out by suitably trained and experienced staff.

1 Scope

This part of ISO 17378 specifies a method for the determination of arsenic and antimony. The method is applicable to drinking water, surface water, ground water, and rain water. The approximate linear application range of this part of ISO 17378 for both elements is from 0,5 µg/l to 20 µg/l. Samples containing higher concentrations than the application range can be analysed following appropriate dilution.

Generally sea water is outside the scope of this part of ISO 17378. Sea water samples can be analysed using a standard additions approach providing that this is validated for the samples under test. The method is unlikely to detect organo-arsenic and organo-antimony compounds.

The sensitivity of this method is dependent on the selected operating conditions.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 5667-1, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes and sampling techniques*

ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples*

ISO 5667-5, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 5: Guidance on sampling of drinking water from treatment works and piped distribution systems*

ISO 5667-6, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 6: Guidance on sampling of rivers and streams*

ISO 5667-8, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 8: Guidance on the sampling of wet deposition*

ISO 5667-11, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 11: Guidance on sampling of groundwaters*

ISO 8466-1, *Water quality — Calibration and evaluation of analytical methods and estimation of performance characteristics — Part 1: Statistical evaluation of the linear calibration function*

ISO 8466-2, *Water quality — Calibration and evaluation of analytical methods and estimation of performance characteristics — Part 2: Calibration strategy for non-linear second-order calibration functions*