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Second edition
2022-08

Natural gas — Determination of water by the Karl Fischer method —

Part 1: General requirements

*Gaz naturel — Dosage de l'eau par la méthode de Karl Fischer —
Partie 1: Exigences générales*



Reference number
ISO 10101-1:2022(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 193, *Natural Gas*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Analysis of natural gas*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 238, *Test gases, test pressures, appliance categories and gas appliance types*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 10101-1:1993), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- [Clause 2](#) and Bibliography were revised;
- New fixed structure numbering inserted.

A list of all parts in the ISO 10101 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

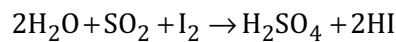
Water vapour may be present in natural gas due to, for example, natural occurrence in the well production stream, the storage of gas in underground reservoirs, transmission or distribution through mains containing moisture or other reasons.

The Karl Fischer method for the determination of moisture has several practical advantages compared to other methods for moisture determination, such as accuracy, speed and selectivity.

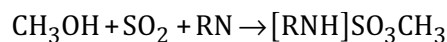
The Karl Fischer method is selective for water, because the titration reaction itself consumes water.

The Karl Fischer (KF) titration can be divided into two basic techniques depending on the application range – volumetric and coulometric KF titration. The two analysis techniques differ in the mode of iodine addition or generation.

KF titration is essentially based on the Bunsen reaction used for the determination of sulphur dioxide in aqueous solution:



If an excess of sulphur dioxide with simultaneous neutralization of the sulphuric acid formed shift the reaction equilibrium to the right, the Bunsen reaction can also be used for the determination of water. Karl Fischer used pyridine as (neutralization) base, thus developing the classical KF reagent. This was a solution of iodine and sulphur dioxide in a solvent mixture of pyridine and methanol^[9]. The fact that the pyridine contained in the reagent has a strong unpleasant odour and toxicity and the reaction runs stoichiometrically only within a certain pH range led to the revision of the KF reagents^[9]. Scholz formulated the following KF reaction based on imidazole:



where RN = Base.



Volumetric KF titration is preferably used for the determination of large amounts of water in the range of 1 mg to 100 mg^[10]. Coulometry, however, is a micro-method which is particularly well suited for determination of quantities of water from 10 µg to 10 mg^[10]. In coulometric water determination, iodine is not added in the form of a titrating solution but rather directly produced from a iodine-containing solution by an anodic oxidation reaction^[9]. The high analytic precision at low absolute water quantities makes coulometric KF titration particularly well suited for determination of the water content in aqueous gases.