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Plastics — Methods for the preparation of samples for biodegradation testing of plastic materials

*Plastiques — Méthodes de préparation des échantillons pour les essais
de biodégradation des matériaux plastiques*



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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.

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 10210 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Physical-chemical properties*.

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Introduction

Plastics recovery technology includes material recycling, organic recycling and energy recovery. The use of biodegradable plastics is one of the valuable recovery options in the field of organic recycling.

ISO standards for determining the ultimate aerobic and anaerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium, activated sludge, compost, digesting sludge and soil have been published. These standards include ISO 14851, ISO 14852, ISO 14853, ISO 14855-1, ISO 14855-2, ISO 15985 and ISO 17556. For the user of these standards, it might be difficult to compare biodegradation changes during a test, even when using the same samples, due to differences in the test conditions. These differences might arise from the compost preparation, the test preparation methodology, the shape and/or size of the test sample, etc. Accurate comparison of biodegradability data for the same plastic material can be difficult to achieve unless the conditions specified in the standards are accurately followed.

A unified approach to test sample preparation is important in achieving consistency within the standards mentioned above. The methods described in this document help to provide a consistent approach to sample preparation techniques for biodegradation testing of plastic materials.