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# **Stationary source emissions — Determination of the mass concentration of nitrogen oxides in flue gas — Performance characteristics of automated measuring systems**

*Émissions de sources fixes — Détermination de la concentration en  
masse des oxydes d'azote dans les effluents gazeux — Caractéristiques  
de performance des systèmes de mesurage automatiques*



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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](http://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](http://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 of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Stationary source emissions*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 10849:1996), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the structure and the components have been updated to be similar to the latest editions of e.g. ISO 12039 (measurement of CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>), ISO 17179 (measurement of NH<sub>3</sub>), ISO 13199 (measurement of total VOC), ISO 25140 (measurement of CH<sub>4</sub>), ISO 21258 (measurement of N<sub>2</sub>O);
- [Clause 3](#) has been updated (addition or deletion and change in terms and definitions);
- a new analytical technique has been added (Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy) for measurement of NO and NO<sub>2</sub> or NO<sub>x</sub>;
- the performance characteristics and criteria as well as QA/QC procedures have been changed to harmonize with latest ISO standards;
- examples of performance test results and the results of uncertainty calculation have been added for NO and NO<sub>2</sub> or NO<sub>x</sub> measurement.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

Nitrogen oxides are produced during most combustion processes. In fossil fuel combustion, nitrogen oxides are produced from nitrogen contained in the fuel and from the oxidation of nitrogen in the air used for combustion. The quantity of nitrogen oxides produced depends upon the nitrogen content of the fuel, the combustor design, and the combustor operating conditions.

In flue gases from conventional boiler combustion systems, the nitrogen oxides consist of approximately 95 % nitrogen monoxide (NO). The remaining oxide is predominantly nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) formed from the oxidation of NO when the flue gas temperature decreases. These two oxides (NO + NO<sub>2</sub>) are generally designated as NO<sub>x</sub>. It should be noted that in other processes the ratio of NO to NO<sub>2</sub>, may be different and other nitrogen oxides may be present.

There are numerous ways of determining nitrogen oxides in the gases of combustion plants, both wet chemical/analytical methods and instrumental techniques.