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Second edition
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Plastics — Determination of the ultimate anaerobic biodegradation under high-solids anaerobic-digestion conditions — Method by analysis of released biogas

Plastiques — Évaluation de la biodégradation anaérobie ultime dans des conditions de digestion anaérobie à teneur élevée en solides — Méthode par analyse du biogaz libéré



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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).

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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 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Physical-chemical properties*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15985:2004). It also incorporates the Technical Corrigendum ISO 15985:2004/Cor.1:2007.

The main changes are:

- a) requirements regarding disintegration removed in the whole document;
- b) units added where necessary;
- c) bibliography updated.

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Introduction

New types of plastic are being developed in which biodegradability is a specifically sought-for characteristic. These plastics and derived products can be added to or used as feedstock for biological recycling and recovery in aerobic composting plants or anaerobic biogasification plants. To make sure these plastics are fit for biological recycling, their biodegradability must be demonstrated, preferably by standard test methods.

Standard test methods which determine the degree of biodegradation under aerobic, high-solids conditions have been developed (e.g. ISO 14855-1 and ISO 14855-2). However, it is well known from the literature that the degree of biodegradation can differ significantly depending on the environmental conditions such as the presence or the absence of oxygen (aerobic or anaerobic). To have a complete understanding of the biodegradation characteristics of a plastic under these different environmental conditions, various methods are required.

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of the ultimate anaerobic biodegradation of plastic materials under high-solids conditions. This is representative of systems for the anaerobic biogasification of the organic fraction of municipal solid waste. Another method for determining the degree of anaerobic biodegradation is ISO 11734. However, this method is designed for soluble test materials in aqueous test conditions and at low concentrations (typically detergents) which is not typical of plastics.