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Indoor air —

Part 1:

General aspects of sampling strategy

Air intérieur —

Partie 1: Aspects généraux de la stratégie d'échantillonnage



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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 16000-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Indoor air*.

ISO 16000 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Indoor air*:

- *Part 1: General aspects of sampling strategy*
- *Part 2: Sampling strategy for formaldehyde*
- *Part 3: Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds — Active sampling method*
- *Part 4: Determination of formaldehyde — Diffusive sampling method*
- *Part 6: Determination of volatile organic compounds in indoor and test chamber air by active sampling on Tenax TA sorbent, thermal desorption and gas chromatography using MS/FID*
- *Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds — Emission test chamber method*
- *Part 10: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds — Emission test cell method*
- *Part 11: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds — Sampling, storage of samples and preparation of test specimens*

The following parts are under preparation:

- *Part 5: Sampling strategy for volatile organic compounds (VOCs)*
- *Part 7: Sampling strategy for determination of airborne asbestos fibre concentrations*
- *Part 8: Ventilation rate measurement*

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Introduction

The ISO 16000 series deals with indoor air measurements. This part of ISO 16000 is intended as an aid to planning indoor air pollution measurements. Additional parts of ISO 16000 describe the sampling strategy, including the conditions to be observed for the particular substances or groups of substances, such as the dependence of indoor air pollution concentrations on atmospheric humidity or temperature or other effects. The actual procedures dealing with indoor air measurements for the individual substances are also presented in other parts of ISO 16000.

An inappropriate monitoring strategy can contribute to the overall uncertainty of the measurement result to a greater extent than the monitoring procedure itself.

Attention should be given to the special role of the human sense of smell in identifying substances or classes of substances in indoor air. Here it is not so much the sensitivity of the sense of smell, but the memory of smell and the experience of the specialist (chemist, perfume specialist) that is important. Sensory information can greatly simplify the identification of air pollutants and consequently influence the sampling strategy. However, sensoric adaptation affects the sensory information, particularly in the case of persistent indoor pollutants.

The interpretation of indoor air measurements is assisted by the use of guideline values for acceptable indoor air quality. To draw a conclusion about whether and to what extent the concentrations of a pollutant measured in a room exceed the normal level or the level acceptable from the standpoint of health, it is useful to rely on guideline values or published literature. The column "Remarks" of Table C.1 (see Annex C) gives available World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines for indoor air^[1]. It is emphasized, however, that these values are not legally binding. In the absence of published guideline values, the investigator may consult peer reviewed journal articles or other literature for guidance on typical values observed in buildings without reported complaints.

Representatives of various technical fields should be involved in the planning of indoor air quality measurements.

Table A.1 of this part of ISO 16000 summarizes the most important types of indoor environment, and examples of the sources that may be encountered in them. The list is not, of course, fully comprehensive because of the large number of possibilities.

Table B.1 shows the sources of indoor air pollutants and the most important substances emitted. Table C.1 lists substances frequently detected and their possible sources. In some cases, the sources of indoor pollution arise outside the building; for example, benzene from vehicle traffic and petrol stations, and chlorinated hydrocarbons from nearby dry-cleaning establishments. Soil emissions may also be important if, for example, buildings have been erected on old landfills, industrial sites, or uranium-containing soils which emit radon.

Annex D contains a checklist relating to information to be recorded when indoor air measurements are carried out. This list is also intended to aid the user of this part of ISO 16000 in the subsequent assessment of the analytical result.

The sampling strategy procedure described in this part of ISO 16000 is based on Guideline VDI 4300 Part 1^[2]. Similar national standards exist^{[3], [4], [5]}.