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## Indoor air —

### Part 18: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling by impaction

*Air intérieur —*

*Partie 18: Détection et dénombrement des moisissures —  
Échantillonnage par impaction*



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## Contents

Page

Foreword .....	iv
Introduction.....	v
1 Scope .....	1
2 Normative references .....	1
3 Terms and definitions .....	1
4 Principle.....	3
5 Apparatus and materials.....	3
5.1 Sampling device .....	3
5.2 Equipment for preparing the agar plates .....	4
5.3 Equipment for sampling .....	4
6 Culture media and reagents .....	4
6.1 General .....	4
6.2 Dichloran 18 % glycerol agar (DG18) .....	4
6.3 Malt-extract agar .....	5
6.4 Potato dextrose agar .....	5
7 Measurement procedure.....	6
7.1 Preparation for sampling .....	6
7.2 Sampling.....	6
7.3 Sampling period and sampling volume .....	7
7.4 Transport and storage .....	7
8 Sampling efficiency and method limitations .....	8
9 Calibration of flow rate, function control and maintenance of the sampling system .....	8
9.1 Calibration of flow rate.....	8
9.2 Function control and maintenance of the sampling system .....	8
10 Quality assurance.....	8
11 Sampling protocol .....	9
12 Performance characteristics .....	9
Annex A (informative) Technical description of a suitable one stage sieve impactor .....	10
Annex B (informative) Sampling protocol .....	11
Annex C (informative) Sample exchange for method validation.....	12
Bibliography.....	20

## 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 16000-18 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 in indoor air and test chamber air — Active sampling method*
- *Part 4: Determination of formaldehyde — Diffusive sampling method*
- *Part 5: Sampling strategy for volatile organic compounds (VOCs)*
- *Part 6: Determination of volatile organic compounds in indoor and test chamber air by active sampling on Tenax TA<sup>®</sup> sorbent, thermal desorption and gas-chromatography using MS or MS-FID*
- *Part 7: Sampling strategy for determination of airborne asbestos fibre concentrations*
- *Part 8: Determination of local mean ages of air in buildings for characterizing ventilation conditions*
- *Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing — Emission test chamber method*
- *Part 10: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing — Emission test cell method*
- *Part 11: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing — Sampling, storage of samples and preparation of test specimens*
- *Part 12: Sampling strategy for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)*

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- *Part 13: Determination of total (gas and particle-phase) polychlorinated dioxin-like biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins/dibenzofurans (PCDDs/PCDFs) — Collection on sorbent-backed filters*
- *Part 14: Determination of total (gas and particle-phase) polychlorinated dioxin-like biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins/dibenzofurans (PCDDs/PCDFs) — Extraction, clean-up and analysis by high-resolution gas chromatography and mass spectrometry*
- *Part 15: Sampling strategy for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)*
- *Part 16: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling by filtration*
- *Part 17: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Culture-based method*
- *Part 18: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling by impaction*
- *Part 19: Sampling strategy for moulds*
- *Part 23: Performance test for evaluating the reduction of formaldehyde concentrations by sorptive building materials*
- *Part 24: Performance test for evaluating the reduction of volatile organic compound (except formaldehyde) concentrations by sorptive building materials*
- *Part 25: Determination of the emission of semi-volatile organic compounds by building products — Micro-chamber method*
- *Part 26: Sampling strategy for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)*
- *Part 28: Determination of odour emissions from building products using test chambers*

The following parts are under preparation:

- *Part 21: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling from materials*
- *Part 27: Determination of settled fibrous dust on surfaces by SEM (scanning electron microscopy) (direct method)*
- *Part 29: Test methods for VOC detectors*
- *Part 30: Sensory testing of indoor air*
- *Part 31: Measurement of flame retardants and plasticizers based on organophosphorus compounds — Phosphoric acid ester*
- *Part 32: Investigation of constructions on pollutants and other injurious factors — Inspections*

## Introduction

Mould is a common name for filamentous fungi from different taxonomic groups (Ascomycetes, Zygomycetes, and their anamorphic states formerly known as deuteromycetes or fungi imperfecti). They form a mycelium and spores by which they become visible macroscopically. Most spores are in the size range 2 µm to 10 µm, while some go up to 30 µm and a very few up to 100 µm. Spores of some mould genera are small and become airborne very easily (e.g. *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*) while others are bigger or embedded in a slime matrix (e.g. *Stachybotrys*, *Fusarium*) and are less mobile.

Mould spores are widely distributed in the outdoor environment and, therefore, occur in varying concentrations also indoors. Growth of moulds in indoor environments, however, should be considered a hygienic problem because epidemiological studies have revealed that dampness or mould growth in homes and health impairment of occupants are closely related.

Harmonized methods for sampling, detection, and enumeration of moulds, including standards for sampling strategies, are important for comparative assessment of mould problems indoors. Before taking any measurements, a measurement strategy is required.

This part of ISO 16000 specifies a method for active short-term sampling (1 min to 10 min) whereas an active long-term sampling procedure (0,5 h to several hours) is specified in ISO 16000-16.

This part of ISO 16000 is based on parts of VDI 4300 Part 10:2008<sup>[11]</sup>.

ISO 16017<sup>[8]</sup><sup>[9]</sup> and ISO 12219<sup>[3]</sup>–<sup>[7]</sup> also focus on volatile organic compound (VOC) measurements.