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Second edition  
2011-10-15

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## Indoor air —

### Part 3:

## Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in indoor air and test chamber air — Active sampling method

*Air intérieur —*

*Partie 3: Dosage du formaldéhyde et d'autres composés carbonyles dans l'air intérieur et dans l'air des chambres d'essai — Méthode par échantillonnage actif*



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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 16000-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Indoor air*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 16000-3:2001), which has been technically revised.

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

This part of ISO 16000 is intended to be used for characterizing indoor air following the sampling strategy specified in ISO 16000-2. It is applicable to formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds. It has been tested for 14 aldehydes and ketones. Formaldehyde is the simplest carbonyl compound, with one carbon, one oxygen and two hydrogen atoms. In its monomolecular state, it is a colourless, pungent, reactive gas. It has been used in the production of urea-formaldehyde resins, adhesives, and insulating foams. Emissions from particle (chip) board and wall insulation are the major sources of formaldehyde in indoor air.

Formaldehyde is collected by passing air through a reactive medium that converts the compound to a derivative of lower vapour pressure that is more efficiently retained by the sampler and can be easily analysed. This part of ISO 16000 determines formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds by reaction with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine coated on to a sorbent to convert them to their corresponding hydrazones, which can be recovered and measured with high sensitivity, precision, and accuracy. Other carbonyl compounds that may be emitted into air from solvents, adhesives, cosmetics, and other sources can also be determined using this part of ISO 16000.

The sampling procedure is based on US EPA method TO-11A<sup>[12]</sup>.

Formaldehyde and certain other carbonyl compounds have a high toxic potential<sup>[15]</sup>.

ISO 16017<sup>[7][8]</sup> and ISO 12219<sup>[2]–[6]</sup> also focus on volatile organic compound (VOC) measurements.