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Water quality — Guidance for determination of biodegradability in the marine environment

*Qualité de l'eau — Lignes directrices pour la détermination de la
biodégradabilité en milieu marin*



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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 3.

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 International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 16221 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Biological methods*.

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Introduction

ISO/TC 147 has established International Standards for testing biodegradability of substances and waste water in the aquatic environment. All these methods, which are summarized in ISO 15462, can only be used for the determination and prediction of biodegradability in fresh water. There are, however, many cases, for example, substances used off-shore, where an urgent need exists for testing biodegradability in the marine environment. This International Standard describes biodegradation testing in marine test systems, and is based on an established OECD Guideline and the experience gained by a working group of the Oslo and Paris Commission (OSPARCOM) which has selected suitable standardized ISO methods, adopted for marine conditions and checked in a ring test.