

# IULTCS/IUC 28-2

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## Leather — Determination of ethoxylated alkylphenols —

### Part 2: Indirect method

*Cuir — Détermination des alkylphénols éthoxylés —  
Partie 2: Méthode indirecte*



Reference numbers  
ISO 18218-2:2019(E)  
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ISO copyright office  
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva  
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax: +41 22 749 09 47  
Email: [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Website: [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

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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](http://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](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by the Chemical Test Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUC Commission, IULTCS) in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, the secretariat of which is held by UNI, in accordance with the agreement on technical co-operation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for the sampling and testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18218-2:2015), which has been technically revised as follows:

- [6.14](#) and [6.15](#) have been added;
- [7.4](#), [7.5](#) and [7.6](#) have been technically revised;
- [8.1](#) has been revised by including a reference to [6.14](#).

A list of all parts in the ISO 18218 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

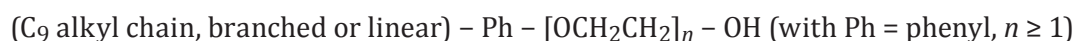
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## Introduction

Nonylphenol ethoxylate belongs to the non-ionic surfactants. The biodegradation of nonylphenol ethoxylate releases the persistent pollutant branched nonylphenol. Nonylphenol is a hormonal acting substance that is toxic for waterborne organisms and many other organisms. For this reason, the release of nonylphenol ethoxylate into the environment shall be avoided.

In 2003, the European Directive 2003/53/EC restricted the sale and use of nonylphenol and nonylphenol ethoxylate in product preparations for industries with discharges to waste water. Preparations containing concentrations equal to or higher than 0,1 % of nonylphenol ethoxylate or nonylphenol were forbidden. This directive is included as part of the EU Regulation 1907/2006 (REACH).

No detailed composition of the chemical substance nonylphenol ethoxylate can be given; it is assigned the general structural formula:



To cover the group of ethoxylates of 4-nonylphenol, branched and linear, the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) has assigned the substance the following definition:

'4-nonylphenol, branched and linear, ethoxylated [substances with a linear and/or branched alkyl chain with a carbon number of 9 covalently bound in position 4 to phenol, ethoxylated covering UVCB and well-defined substances, polymers, and homologues, which include any of the individual isomers and/or combinations thereof].'

In the leather industry, nonylphenol ethoxylate and octylphenol ethoxylate surfactants have been used. However, the water insoluble substances nonylphenol and octylphenol have not been used. For this reason, two different analytical procedures have been prepared for analysing leather samples.

ISO 18218-1 is a method that directly determines the ethoxylated alkylphenol. It is an efficient procedure for the analysis of a larger number of leather samples. This procedure requires HPLC with triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (MSMS) to identify the nonylphenol ethoxylate and octylphenol ethoxylate.

This document specifies a procedure for analysing the alkylphenol. The ethoxylated alkylphenol is cleaved to form the alkylphenol, which is identified using high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) equipment. This method can also be used to indirectly determine the alkylphenol ethoxylate content in leather and process auxiliaries.