

This is a preview of "ISO 4499-4:2016". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

First edition  
2016-02-15

---

---

## Hardmetals — Metallographic determination of microstructure —

### Part 4: Characterisation of porosity, carbon defects and eta-phase content

*Métaux-durs — Détermination métallographique de la  
microstructure —*

*Partie 4: Caractérisation de la porosité, des défauts carbone et de la  
teneur en phase éta*



Reference number  
ISO 4499-4:2016(E)

© ISO 2016



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2016, Published in Switzerland

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Ch. de Blandonnet 8 • CP 401  
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 749 01 11  
Fax +41 22 749 09 47  
copyright@iso.org  
www.iso.org

This is a preview of "ISO 4499-4:2016". Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.

## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols and Units</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Principle</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>6 Apparatus</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>7 Calibration of measurement apparatus</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>8 Preparation of test samples</b> .....	<b>2</b>
8.1 Methods of preparation.....	2
8.2 Characterisation of porosity and carbon (graphite) defects.....	3
8.3 Characterisation of eta-phase.....	3
<b>9 Procedure</b> .....	<b>3</b>
9.1 General.....	3
9.2 Determination of porosity.....	3
9.3 Determination of carbon defects.....	4
9.4 Determination of the $\eta$ -phase (eta-phase).....	7
<b>10 Uncertainty of measurement</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>11 Test report</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>10</b>

## 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 on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#).

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 119, *Powder metallurgy*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Sampling and testing methods for hardmetals*.

This first edition of ISO 4499-4 cancels and replaces ISO 4505:1978, which has been technically revised.

ISO 4499 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Hardmetals — Metallographic determination of microstructure*:

- *Part 1: Photomicrographs and description*
- *Part 2: Measurement of WC grain size*
- *Part 3: Measurement of microstructural features in Ti (C,N) and WC/cubic carbide based hardmetals*
- *Part 4: Characterisation of porosity, carbon defects and eta-phase content*

This is a preview of "ISO 4499-4:2016". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

## Introduction

In standard WC/Co hardmetals, the chemistry, magnetic properties and density are generally controlled so that only two phases WC and Co are present.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> The Co phase is an alloy and contains some W and C in solid solution. The WC phase is stoichiometric. If the composition is either high or low in total carbon content, then it is possible to see a third phase in the structure. For high C, this is graphite; for low C, it is eta phase ( $\eta$ ); typically, an  $M_6C$  or  $M_{12}C$  carbide where M is  $(Co_xW_y)$ . This part of ISO 4499 is concerned with the detection and measurement of these microstructural features together with the measurement of porosity levels. Porosity is important since these materials are manufactured by a powder metallurgical route and although the technique of liquid phase sintering is used to consolidate the multiphase structure, low levels of porosity can arise in some instances and affect properties such as density and strength.