
**Plastics — Aromatic isocyanates for
use in the production of polyurethanes
— Determination of total chlorine**

*Plastiques — Isocyanates aromatiques utilisés pour la production de
polyuréthanes — Dosage du chlore total*

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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).

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).

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 World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 61 *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 12, *Thermosetting materials*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 26603:2008), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- a key has been added to [Figure 1](#).

Introduction

Isocyanates are typically produced by phosgenation of an aromatic amine using chlorine-substituted benzenes (e.g. o-dichlorobenzene) as reaction solvents. ISO 15028 is used to determine the hydrolyzable chlorine content of the isocyanates. The test methods in this document are used to determine the total chlorine content of aromatic isocyanates. The difference between the total chlorine content and the hydrolyzable chlorine content is a measure of the reaction solvents left in the product, and therefore is a useful tool for assessing product quality.

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SAFETY PRECAUTIONS — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice, if applicable. This document does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any regulatory requirements.

1 Scope

This document specifies the determination of the total chlorine content of aromatic isocyanates used in the preparation of polyurethanes. The difference between the total chlorine content and the hydrolyzable chlorine content (see ISO 15028) is a measure of the process solvents left in the product. Both test methods are applicable to a variety of organic compounds, including aliphatic isocyanates, but the amount of sample used might need to be adjusted. These test methods can be used for research or for quality control.

NOTE This document is technically equivalent to ASTM D4661-03.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 6353-2, *Reagents for chemical analysis — Part 2: Specifications — First series*

ISO 6353-3, *Reagents for chemical analysis — Part 3: Specifications — Second series*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

isocyanate

organic compound containing one or more NCO groups

3.2

polyurethane

polymer prepared by the reaction of an organic di- or polyisocyanate with compounds containing two or more hydroxyl groups

3.3

hydrolyzable chlorine

organic or inorganic chlorine compounds formed in the production of isocyanates that react with methanol under the conditions of ISO 15028 to liberate hydrogen chloride

3.4

total chlorine

inorganic and organically bound chlorine present in isocyanates that is converted to titratable chlorides under the combustion conditions of the test

4 Principle

In each test method, the organic matter in the sample is destroyed by combustion with oxygen, thus converting the organically combined chlorine to ionic chloride. The chloride is determined potentiometrically by titration with silver nitrate (AgNO_3) solution.

4.1 Test Method A

Combustion of the sample is done in a pressurized oxygen bomb.

4.2 Test Method B

Combustion is done at atmospheric pressure in a Schöniger oxygen flask.

NOTE For information on the Schöniger flask, see Reference [6].

5 Interferences

Thiocyanate, cyanide, sulphide, bromide, iodide or other substances capable of reacting with silver ion, as well as substances capable of reducing silver ion in acid solution, will interfere with the determination.

6 Sampling

Since organic isocyanates react with atmospheric moisture, take special precautions in sampling. Usual sampling methods, even when conducted rapidly, can expose the isocyanate to moisture and cause contamination of the sample with insoluble ureas; therefore, blanket the sample with a dry inert gas (e.g. nitrogen, argon or dried air) at all times.

WARNING — Organic isocyanates are hazardous when absorbed through the skin, or when the vapours are breathed.

CAUTION — Provide adequate ventilation and wear protective gloves and eyeglasses.

7 Test Method A — Total chlorine by oxygen bomb

7.1 Reagents

7.1.1 Purity of reagents

Reagent-grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Other grades may be used, provided that it is first determined that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of ISO 6353-2 and ISO 6353-3.

7.1.2 Purity of water

Unless otherwise indicated, references to water shall be understood to mean grade 2 water as defined by ISO 3696.

7.1.3 Ethyl alcohol, conforming to ISO 6353-2.

7.1.4 Nitric acid (diluted). While stirring vigorously, add 100 ml of nitric acid (HNO_3 , specific gravity 1,42) to 100 ml of water cooled in an ice bath.

7.1.5 Oxygen, free of combustible materials and halogen compounds.

7.1.6 Silver nitrate, standard solution (0,01 M). Prepare a 0,01 M silver nitrate (AgNO_3) solution and check frequently enough to detect changes of 0,000 5 M, either gravimetrically or potentiometrically, using standard hydrochloric acid (HCl).

7.1.7 Sodium carbonate solution (50 g/l). Dissolve 135 g of sodium carbonate decahydrate ($\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$) in water and dilute to 1 l.

7.2 Apparatus

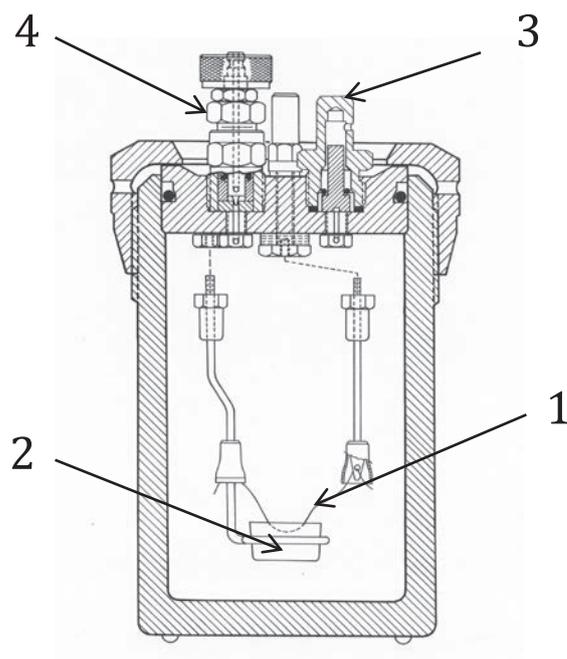
7.2.1 Weighing bottle and balance, suitable for weighing a liquid sample by difference to the nearest 0,5 mg.

7.2.2 Oxygen bomb apparatus. A corrosion-resistant steel reactor capable of being pressurized to 40 atmospheres of pure oxygen, followed by electrical ignition of the sample by use of an internal fuse wire. The bomb shall be capable of withstanding the pressure build-up caused by the combustion of the sample. Parr Bomb No. 1108 is a suitable device (see [Figure 1](#)). Equivalent apparatus may be substituted with appropriate changes in the procedure.

7.2.3 Fuse wire, iron-nickel-chromium, No. 34 B and S gage.

7.2.4 Titrimeter, automatic (preferred) or manual, equipped with a silver/silver chloride electrode pair and a 10 ml capacity microburette.

7.2.5 Bubble counter, a 100 ml graduate and delivery tube, or a bent "L" glass tube connected to a piece of rubber tubing. The graduate is filled to the 50 ml mark with water to which 3 ml of 0,1 M AgNO_3 and 1 drop of concentrated nitric acid have been added. Any turbidity that develops indicates that HCl gas is being lost when venting the bomb.

**Key**

- 1 ignition wire
- 2 sample pan
- 3 oxygen fill port
- 4 oxygen vent port

Figure 1 — Parr oxygen bomb

7.3 Procedure

7.3.1 Make certain that the bomb, oxygen lines, and fittings are free of oil and grease.

WARNING — Small quantities of either oil or grease may cause a violent explosion.

When the bomb is used repeatedly, a film may form on its inner surface. Remove this film by rotating the bomb on a lathe at about 300 r/min and polishing the inside surface with Grit No. 2/0 or equivalent paper coated with light machine oil, then with a paste made from grit-free chromic oxide and water. This procedure will remove all but very deep pits while polishing the surface. Before using the bomb, wash it with soap and water to remove residual cutting oil or paste. Bombs with pitted surfaces should not be used because they will retain chlorine from sample to sample.

7.3.2 Weigh a 0,9 g sample by difference to $\pm 0,000 5$ g into the combustion capsule.

WARNING — A severe safety hazard exists if more than 1 g of sample is used.

7.3.3 Fit a 100 mm, iron-nickel fuse wire (7.2.3) onto the two electrodes. Place the combustion capsule on the loop electrode and adjust the fuse wire in the capsule so that it is under the surface of the sample but does not touch the capsule. Place about 5 ml of Na_2CO_3 solution (7.1.7) in the bomb and, with a small rubber spatula, wet the interior surface of the bomb, including the head, as thoroughly as possible. Put the bomb head in the bomb cylinder and the contact ring on top of the bomb head, screwing the cap down finger-tight. Close the outlet valve securely with the special wrench provided and open the main oxygen cylinder slightly. Place the bomb in its bench-mounted holder and tighten the holder with a suitably sized hex wrench. Attach the union on the oxygen-filling connection to the inlet valve of the bomb. Admit oxygen slowly (to prevent blowing the sample from the cup) to 20 to 25 atmospheres (2,03 MPa to 2,53 MPa). Close the operating valve of the oxygen cylinder and observe the pressure on

the bomb gage. If a leak is indicated by a gradual pressure drop, inspect and tighten all connections. Do not continue with the test until the leak is stopped and the bomb holds pressure. Release the pressure from the oxygen tank and disconnect the bomb. Place the valve thumb nut on the oxygen inlet valve and tighten finger-tight.

WARNING — Exercise extreme caution from this point on until the bomb has been fired, cooled, and bled free of oxygen.

7.3.4 Pull the plug to the bomb ignition unit. Fill the bomb ignition receptacle three-quarters full of water. Submerge the bomb in the centre of the ignition receptacle and visually inspect it for oxygen leaks. If the needle valve is not gas tight, tighten the packing gland slightly. Do not fire the bomb until all leaks are repaired. Allow cooling water to circulate around the bomb the entire time the bomb is in the receptacle.

WARNING — A serious shock hazard exists around the bomb ignition receptacle should the ignition unit be shorted. Always pull the electrical plug before touching this receptacle.

7.3.5 Connect the terminal at the top of the ignition receptacle to the terminal on the top of the bomb. Connect the plugs to the cooling receptacle, insert the plug to the ignition unit and fire the bomb. The red indicator light should flash on, then off, indicating that the bomb fired properly. Pull the electrical plug. If the bomb did not fire as indicated, carefully feel the bomb. If it is cold, this indicates that the test was incomplete, and that [7.3.1](#) to [7.3.5](#) shall be repeated.

7.3.6 Allow the bomb to cool at least 10 min, then remove it from the receptacle and connect the bubble counter to the outlet valve. Release the pressure slowly and uniformly, taking at least 2 min. When all of the gas has bled, open the bomb and examine the contents. Traces of unburned sample or soot indicate incomplete combustion, and that the test shall be repeated.

7.3.7 Carefully wash the bomb head, the electrodes, the capsule, and the cylinder walls with water as follows: Rinse the walls of the cylinder with about 25 ml of reagent water and fill the capsule. Scrub both the interior of the bomb and the inner surface of the bomb cover with a small rubber spatula then rinse the spatula, catching the rinse water in the bomb. Rinse the bomb washings into a 250 ml beaker.

NOTE Because it is difficult to rinse the last traces of chloride from the walls of the bomb, residual chloride tends to carry over from sample to sample. Therefore, it is advisable to avoid alternating samples with high and low chlorine contents.

Evaporate the washings in the beaker to about 20 ml. Cool below 10 °C and acidify the solution to methyl red indicator by the dropwise addition of diluted HNO₃ ([7.1.4](#)). Insert silver/silver chloride electrodes and add 60 ml to 100 ml of ethyl alcohol to cover the electrode tips. Cool the solution to 10 °C, and titrate potentiometrically with 0,01 M AgNO₃, adding the AgNO₃ solution in 0,1 ml increments near the end point.

7.3.8 Titrate a blank exactly as described in [7.3.1](#) to [7.3.7](#), but without adding the sample.

7.4 Calculation

Calculate the total chlorine, in percent, by means of the formula

$$3,55(A - B)C / m$$

where

A is the AgNO₃ solution required for titration of the sample, ml;

B is the AgNO₃ solution required for titration of the blank, ml;

C is the molarity of the AgNO₃ solution;

m is the mass of the sample used, in g;

3,55 is the constant combining the atomic mass of chlorine (35,5), conversion from milligrams to grams (1 000), and conversion to percent (100).

7.5 Precision and bias

A limited round robin was conducted among Polyurethane Raw Materials Analysis Committee (PURMAC) laboratories. Results showed the following for precision and bias of the method.

7.5.1 Precision

7.5.1.1 Duplicate results by the same analyst should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 0,015 % total chlorine.

7.5.1.2 Results reported by different laboratories should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 0,03 % total chlorine.

7.5.2 Bias

Bias is the difference between the expectation of the test results and an accepted reference value. There are no recognized standards by which to estimate the bias of this test method.

8 Test Method B — Total chlorine by Schöniger oxygen flask

8.1 Reagents

8.1.1 Nitric acid (diluted). While stirring vigorously, add 100 ml of nitric acid (HNO₃, specific gravity 1,42) to 100 ml of water cooled in an ice bath.

8.1.2 Oxygen, free of combustible materials and halogen compounds.

8.1.3 Silver nitrate, standard solution (0,01 M). Prepare a 0,01 M silver nitrate (AgNO₃) solution and check frequently enough to detect changes of 0,000 5 M, either gravimetrically or potentiometrically, using standard hydrochloric acid (HCl).

8.1.4 Sodium carbonate solution (10 g/l). Dissolve 27 g of sodium carbonate decahydrate (Na₂CO₃·10H₂O) in water and dilute to 1 l.

8.2 Apparatus

8.2.1 Schöniger combustion flask. A chemically resistant, 1 000 ml narrow-mouth (24/40 standard taper joint) Erlenmeyer flask with a 100 mm (approximately 4 in) No. 18 platinum wire sealed into the glass stopper. Using tweezers to avoid contamination from fingerprints, make a basket from 45 mesh 0,20 mm (0,007 8 in) platinum gauze as follows.

NOTE Because small amounts of chloride are involved, contamination from fingerprints can be significant.