
INTERNATIONAL STANDARD



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Animal and vegetable oils and fats — Determination of saponification value

Corps gras d'origines animale et végétale — Détermination de l'indice de saponification

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FOREWORD

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards institutes (ISO member bodies). The work of developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been set up 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 3657 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Agricultural food products*, and was circulated to the member bodies in January 1975.

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Germany	New Zealand
Austria	Ghana	Poland
Belgium	Hungary	Romania
Brazil	India	South Africa, Rep. of
Bulgaria	Iran	Spain
Canada	Ireland	Thailand
Chile	Israel	Turkey
Ethiopia	Mexico	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

The member body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Portugal

This International Standard has also been approved by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Animal and vegetable oils and fats – Determination of saponification value

1 SCOPE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of the saponification value of animal and vegetable oils and fats.

The method is not applicable to dark-coloured products or to products which are difficult to saponify or which contain mineral acids.

NOTE – Studies will be undertaken with a view to extending the applicability of the method to the above-mentioned products.

2 REFERENCE

ISO . . . , *Animal and vegetable oils and fats – Sampling*.¹⁾

3 DEFINITION

saponification value: The number of milligrams of potassium hydroxide required to saponify 1 g of fat under the conditions specified.

4 PRINCIPLE

Boiling of a sample under reflux with ethanolic potassium hydroxide solution, followed by titration of the excess potassium hydroxide with standard volumetric hydrochloric acid solution.

5 REAGENTS

5.1 Potassium hydroxide, approximately 0,5 N solution in 94 to 97 % (V/V) ethanol.

This solution should be colourless or straw yellow. A stable, colourless solution can be prepared by either of the following procedures :

1) Reflux 1 litre of ethanol with 8 g of potassium hydroxide and 5 g of aluminium pellets for 1 h, then distil immediately. Dissolve the required amount of potassium hydroxide in the distillate. Allow to stand for several days, then decant the clear supernatant liquid from the potassium carbonate deposited.

2) Add 4 g of aluminium tertbutoxide to 1 litre of ethanol and allow the mixture to stand for several days. Decant the supernatant liquid and dissolve in it the required amount of potassium hydroxide. Allow to stand for several days, then decant the clear supernatant liquid from the potassium carbonate deposited.

Store this solution in a brown or yellow glass bottle fitted with a rubber stopper, and decant it for use.

5.2 Hydrochloric acid, 0,5 N standard volumetric solution, the normality being determined to three decimal places.

5.3 Phenolphthalein solution.

Dissolve 1 g of phenolphthalein in 100 ml of 90 % (V/V) ethanol.

5.4 Boiling aids.

6 APPARATUS

Usual laboratory equipment and in particular :

6.1 Conical flask, 250 ml capacity, made of alkali-resistant glass, with ground neck.

6.2 Reflux condenser, with ground glass joint fitting the conical flask (6.1).

6.3 Heating device (water bath, electric hot-plate or other suitable apparatus; a naked flame shall not be used).

6.4 Burette, 50 ml capacity, complying with class A of ISO/R 385.

6.5 Pipette, 25 ml capacity, complying with class A of ISO/R 648.

6.6 Analytical balance.

1) In preparation.