



BSI Standards Publication

**Organic and organo-mineral fertilizers —  
Determination of the total content of specific  
elements by ICP-AES after digestion by aqua regia**

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## National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of CEN/TS 17770:2022.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CII/37, Fertilisers and related chemicals.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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**CEN/TS 17770**

April 2022

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English Version

**Organic and organo-mineral fertilizers - Determination of  
 the total content of specific elements by ICP-AES after  
 digestion by aqua regia**

Engrais organiques et organo-minéraux -  
 Détermination de la teneur totale en éléments  
 spécifiques par ICP-AES après digestion à l'eau régale

Organische und organisch-minerale Düngemittel -  
 Bestimmung des Gesamtgehaltes spezifischer  
 Elemente durch ICP-AES nach Aufschluss durch  
 Aqua regia

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 13 March 2022 for prEN 17770 application.

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## European foreword

This document (CEN/TS 17770:2022) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 260 “Fertilizers and liming materials”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document has been prepared under a Standardization Request given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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## **Introduction**

This document is part of a modular approach and concerns the analytical measurement step. “Modular” means that a test standard concerns a specific step in assessing a property and not the whole chain of measurements. Inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) is nowadays widely used and a well-established method in many laboratories.

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## 1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of elements in organic fertilizers and organo-mineral fertilizers digests using inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES).

NOTE Alternatively, inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) can be used for the measurement if the user proves that the method gives the same results.

This method is applicable to aqua regia digests prepared according to CEN/TS 17768 for the determination of P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, S, B, Co, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Zn, As, Cd, Cr, Ni, Pb by ICP-AES. The method can be used for the determination of other elements, provided the user has verified the applicability.

## 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.

EN ISO 11885:2009, *Water quality — Determination of selected elements by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometry (ICP-OES) (ISO 11885:2007)*

## 3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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

- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

## 4 Principle

The method is based on the inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) measurement of the concentration of elements in organic fertilizers and organo-mineral fertilizers in aqua regia digests. The elements are determined after an appropriate dilution of the digest, if necessary. The solution is dispersed by a suitable nebulizer of the ICP-AES instrument and the resulting aerosol is transported into the plasma torch. Element specific emission spectra are produced by a radiofrequency inductively coupled argon plasma where atoms or ions are excited at high temperature. The emission spectra are dispersed by a spectrometer, and the intensities of the emission lines are monitored by photosensitive devices. Multi-element determinations using sequential or simultaneous optical systems and axial, radial or dual viewing of the plasma may be used.

## 5 Interferences

### 5.1 General

Interferences and matrix effects shall be recognized and appropriate measures to minimize them shall be made. There are several types of interferences, see 5.2 to 5.6.

### 5.2 Spectral interferences

Spectral interferences are due to incomplete isolation of the radiation emitted by the analyte from other detected radiation sources. Spectral interferences are caused by the background emission from continuous or recombination phenomena, by stray light which causes background increase or overlap of a spectral line from another element, or by the unresolved overlap of molecular band spectra. Background