



BSI Standards Publication

**Cosmetics — Analytical method —  
Detection and quantitative determination  
of Diethanolamine (DEA) by GC/MS**

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## National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of ISO/TR 18818:2017.

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

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**Cosmetics — Analytical method  
— Detection and quantitative  
determination of Diethanolamine  
(DEA) by GC/MS**

*Cosmétique — Méthode analytique — Détection et dosage quantitatif  
de la diéthanolamine (DEA) par GC/SM*



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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

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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)).

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For an explanation on 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 217, *Cosmetics*.

## Introduction

Diethanolamine (DEA) has been restricted for use in cosmetics and personal care products in a number of jurisdictions due to its potential health risk since residual levels of DEA might react with other specific ingredients to form the extremely potent carcinogen nitrosodiethanolamine (NDELA). Therefore, a harmonized method for the screening of DEA in cosmetic raw materials is considered important.

Numerous methods for the trace analysis of alkanolamines including DEA in different sample matrices have been developed and published[1] [2] [3]. Among the methods available for the analysis of alkanolamines, techniques using gas chromatography (GC) or liquid chromatography (LC) with a variety of detector systems have received the most attention[4] [5]. More recent procedures, mass spectrometry (MS) detection in combination with chromatography separation is used to determine analyte content in aqueous solutions with minimal requirements for extraction and cleanup.[6] [7] In some cases, derivatization of alkanolamines has also been used to improve the chromatographic separations and detection[8] [9].

This document describes a rapid and simple method suitable for simultaneously qualitative and quantitative screening of cosmetics and cosmetic raw materials containing residue of above 0,1 % diethanolamine (DEA).

# Cosmetics — Analytical method — Detection and quantitative determination of Diethanolamine (DEA) by GC/MS

## 1 Scope

This document describes a screening method for rapid sampling and identifying of diethanolamine (DEA) in cosmetics and raw materials used in cosmetics by gas chromatography – mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

This method is not applicable to the detection and/or quantification of DEA-related ingredients. When this method is used to analyse unfamiliar sample matrices analysts are advised to confirm the applicability and flexibility of the techniques in their matrix.

Under the conditions specified this method is reliable for quantification with a DEA level at 1 000 mg/kg (0,1 %).

However, samples with lower concentrations (<0,1 %) or otherwise unusual compositions or characteristics can present difficulties (such as, for example, peak tailing) that preclude the direct use of this method.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 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:

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

## 4 Principle

The analyte is extracted with anhydrous ethanol from the sample matrix by ultrasonic extraction. Following ultrasonic treatment, the extract is separated from non-soluble compounds by centrifugation treated with anhydrous sodium sulfate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ), and filtered. The extract thus obtained is then ready for final identification and the quantification with GC-MS. Qualitative results are based on retention time and confirmed by mass spectrometry. A calibration curve prepared from external standards is then used for quantitative analysis.