



BSI Standards Publication

Water quality — Determination of selenium

Part 1: Method using hydride generation atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS)

National foreword

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

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**Water quality — Determination of
selenium —**

Part 1:
**Method using hydride generation
atomic fluorescence spectrometry
(HG-AFS)**

Qualité de l'eau — Dosage du sélénium —

*Partie 1: Méthode par spectrométrie de fluorescence atomique à
génération d'hydrures (HG-AFS)*



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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, www.iso.org/directives.

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Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement. Equivalent products can be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical and biochemical methods*.

ISO/TS 17379 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Determination of selenium*:

- *Part 1: Method using hydride generation atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS)*
- *Part 2: Method using hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry (HG-AAS)*

Introduction

This part of ISO/TS 17379 is intended for use by analysts experienced with the handling of trace elements at very low concentrations.

Inorganic selenium normally occurs in two oxidation states; Se(VI) and Se(IV). It is essential to convert all selenium species to the Se(IV) state prior to generating the hydrides. Selenium(VI) does not form a hydride.

In natural water sources, selenium compounds generally occur in very small quantities, typically less than 1 µg/l. Higher concentrations can be found, e.g. in industrial waste water. Selenium occurs naturally in organic and inorganic compounds and can have oxidation states -II, 0, IV, and VI.

In order to fully decompose all of the selenium compounds, a digestion procedure is necessary. Digestion can only be omitted if it is certain that the selenium in the sample can form a covalent hydride without the necessity of a pre-oxidation digestion step.

The user should be aware that particular problems could require the specification of additional marginal conditions.

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Water quality — Determination of selenium —

Part 1:

Method using hydride generation atomic fluorescence spectrometry (HG-AFS)

WARNING — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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 national regulatory conditions.

IMPORTANT — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted in accordance with this document be carried out by suitably trained and experienced staff.

1 Scope

This part of ISO/TS 17379 specifies a method for the determination of selenium. The method is applicable to drinking water, surface water, ground water, and rain water. The application range of this part of ISO/TS 17379 is from 0,02 µg/l to 100 µg/l. Samples containing selenium at higher concentrations than the application range can be analysed following appropriate dilution. The method is unlikely to detect organoselenium compounds.

The sensitivity of this method is dependent on the operating conditions selected.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. 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 5667-1, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes and sampling techniques*

ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples*

ISO 5667-5, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 5: Guidance on sampling of drinking water from treatment works and pipe distribution systems*

ISO 5667-6, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 6: Guidance on sampling of rivers and streams*

ISO 5667-8, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 8: Guidance on the sampling of wet deposition*

ISO 5667-11, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 11: Guidance on sampling of groundwaters*

ISO 8466-1, *Water quality — Calibration and evaluation of analytical methods and estimation of performance characteristics — Part 1: Statistical evaluation of the linear calibration function*

ISO 15587-1, *Water quality — Digestion for the determination of selected elements in water — Part 1: Aqua regia digestion*