# ISO 18957:2026-10 (E)

## Plastics - Determination of the aerobic biodegradation of plastic materials exposed to seawater using accelerated conditions in laboratory

## Contents

Page


Foreword ..... v

Introduction ..... vi

1 Scope ..... 1

2 Normative references ..... 1

3 Terms and definitions ..... 1

4 Principle ..... 3

5 Test environment ..... 4

6 Reagents ..... 4

7 Apparatus ..... 5
7.1 Detection system for calculation of biodegradability ..... 5
7.2 Analytical equipment for measuring nitrate and nitrite concentrations (optional) ..... 6
7.3 Analytical equipment for measuring remaining test material and degradation products (optional) ..... 6

8 Procedure ..... 6
8.1 Test material ..... 6
8.2 Reference materials ..... 7
8.3 Test set-up ..... 7
8.4 Preparation of seawater with high biodegradation capability ..... 8
8.4.1 General ..... 8
8.4.2 Addition of an organic nutrient source containing nitrogen components ..... 8
8.4.3 Pre-treatment of seawater with sediment ..... 8
8.4.4 Mixing of seawater samples from multiple locations ..... 8
8.4.5 Concentration of microorganisms in seawater by filtration ..... 8
8.5 Start of the test ..... 9
8.5.1 General ..... 9
8.5.2 BOD measurement system ..... 9
8.5.3 CO2 production measurement system ..... 9
8.6 End of the test ..... 9
8.7 Chemicals for the test ..... 10

9 Calculation and expression of results ..... 10
9.1 General ..... 10
9.2 Calculation based on BOD ..... 10
9.3 Calculation based on evolved CO2 ..... 11
9.4 Calculation of potential of biodegradation considered by carbon flow (optional) ..... 12
9.4.1 General ..... 12
9.4.2 Judgment of continuation/termination of the biodegradation test of test material ..... 12
9.4.3 Calculation of carbon converted to biomass and potential biodegradation considered by carbon flow ..... 12
9.4.4 1H NMR analysis ..... 14
9.5 Visual inspection ..... 15
9.6 Expression and interpretation of results ..... 15

10 Validity of results ..... 15

11 Test report ..... 15

Annex A (informative) Biodegradation test apparatus ..... 17

Annex B (informative) Example of biodegradation BOD test with different temperature ..... 19

Annex C (informative) Effect of sonic treatment using ultrasonic cleaner on microorganisms in seawater ..... 21

Annex D (informative)Nitrificationofnitrogeninseawaterduringbiodegradationprocess ..... 22

Annex E (informative) Estimation of amount of microorganisms in tested seawater ..... 23

Annex F (informative) Biodegradation test results with activated seawater ..... 25

Annex G (informative)Evaluationofpotentialbiodegradationconsideredbycarbonflow ..... 28

Annex H (informative) 1H NMR analysis ..... 30

Bibliography ..... 33