ISO 17733:2015-12 (E)

Workplace air - Determination of mercury and inorganic mercury compounds - Method by cold- vapour atomic absorption spectrometry or atomic fluorescence spectrometry

Contents

Page

Foreword vi

Introduction vii

1 Scope 1

2 Normative references 1

3 Terms and definitions 2
3.1 General definitions 2
3.2 Particle size fraction definitions 3
3.3 Sampling definitions 3
3.4 Analytical definitions 4
3.5 Statistical terms 6

4 Principle 7

5 Interferences 7

6 Requirement 8

7 Reagents 8

8 Apparatus 10
8.1 Sampling equipment for diffusive sampling 10
8.2 Sampling equipment for pumped sampling 11
8.3 Laboratory apparatus 14
8.4 Analytical instrumentation 16

9 Occupational exposure assessment 21
9.1 General 21
9.2 Personal sampling 21
9.3 Static (area) sampling 21
9.4 Selection of measurement conditions and measurement pattern 22
9.4.1 General 22
9.4.2 Screening measurements of variation of concentration in time and/or space 22
9.4.3 Screening measurements of time-weighted average concentration and worst case measurements 22
9.4.4 Measurements near an emission source 22
9.4.5 Measurements for comparison with limit values and periodic measurements 22

10 Sampling 23
10.1 Selection of sampling method 23
10.1.1 Measurement of mercury vapour 23
10.1.2 Measurement of particulate inorganic mercury compounds 23
10.1.3 Measurement of mercury vapour and particulate inorganic mercury compounds 23
10.2 Consideration of temperature and pressure effects 24
10.2.1 Effect of temperature and pressure on the uptake rate of diffusive badges 24

10.2.2 Effect of temperature and pressure on volumetric flow rate in the pumped sampling method 24
10.2.3 Expression of results 24
10.3 Diffusive sampling 24
10.3.1 Selection and use of diffusive badges 24
10.3.2 Preparation for sampling 25
10.3.3 Sampling position 26
10.3.4 Sample collection 26
10.3.5 Transportation of samples 26
10.4 Pumped sampling 27
10.4.1 Preliminary considerations 27
10.4.2 Preparation for sampling 28
10.4.3 Sampling position 29
10.4.4 Collection of samples 30
10.4.5 Transportation of samples 30

11 Analysis 31
11.1 General 31
11.2 Cleaning of glassware and plasticsware 31
11.3 Preparation of blank, sample and calibration solutions for analysis of diffusive badges .. 31
11.3.1 Preparation of blank and sample solutions 31
11.3.2 Preparation of calibration solutions 32
11.4 Preparation of blank, sample and calibration solutions for analysis of pumped samples.33 11.4.1 Preparation of blank and sample solutions 33
11.4.2 Preparation of calibration solutions 34
11.5 Instrumental analysis 35
11.5.1 Setting up the instrument 35
11.5.2 Introduction of solutions into the mercury cold-vapour generation system 36
11.5.3 Conditioning the mercury cold-vapour generation system 36
11.5.4 Check for contamination of the reagents and/or system 37
11.5.5 Calibration 37
11.5.6 Determination 38
11.6 Estimation of detection and quantification limits 39
11.6.1 Estimation of the instrumental detection limit 39
11.6.2 Estimation of the method detection limit and the quantification limit 39
11.7 Quality control 40
11.7.1 Reagent blanks and laboratory blanks 40
11.7.2 Quality control solutions 40
11.7.3 Certified reference materials (CRMs) 40
11.7.4 External quality assessment 40
11.8 Measurement uncertainty 40

12 Expression of results 41
12.1 Calculation of the volume of air samples 41
12.1.1 Diffusive sampling 41
12.1.2 Pumped sampling 41
12.2 Calculation of mercury in air concentrations 41

13 Method performance 42
13.1 General 42
13.2 Detection and quantification limits 42
13.2.1 Sampling with diffusive badges and analysis by cold-vapour atomic absorption spectrometry 42
13.2.2 Sampling with pumped sorbent tubes and analysis by cold-vapour atomic absorption spectrometry 42
13.2.3 Sampling with pumped sorbent tubes and analysis by cold-vapour atomic fluorescence spectrometry 42
13.2.4 Sampling with inhalable samplers and analysis by cold-vapour atomic absorption spectrometry 42
13.3 Upper limits of the analytical range 43
13.4 Blank values 43

13.5 Bias and precision 43
13.5.1 Analytical bias 43
13.5.2 Analytical precision 43
13.5.3 Overall bias of sampling and analysis methods 44
13.5.4 Overall precision of sampling and analysis methods 44
13.6 Overall uncertainty of sampling and analysis methods 44
13.7 Effects on sampler performance 45
13.7.1 Effect of exposure concentration and time on sampler performance 45
13.7.2 Effect of atmospheric temperature, pressure and humidity on sampler performance 45
13.7.3 Effect of air velocity on performance of diffusive badges 45
13.8 Sample uptake rate and sampling capacity of diffusive badges 46
13.9 Collection efficiency, breakthrough volume and sampling capacity of sorbent tubes 46
13.10 Storage stability 46
13.11 Mechanical strength 46
13.12 Interferences 46

14 Test report 47
14.1 Test record 47
14.2 Laboratory report 48

Annex A (informative) Guidance on selection of a sampling method for mercury vapour 49

Annex B (informative) Temperature and pressure corrections 50

Bibliography 52