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Irish Standard
I.S. EN ISO 14852:2021

Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium - Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide (ISO 14852:2021)

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National Foreword

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN ISO 14852

July 2021

ICS 83.080.01

Supersedes EN ISO 14852:2018

English Version

Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium - Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide (ISO 14852:2021)

Évaluation de la biodégradabilité aérobie ultime des matériaux plastiques en milieu aqueux - Méthode par analyse du dioxyde de carbone libéré (ISO 14852:2021)

Bestimmung der vollständigen aeroben Bioabbaubarkeit von Kunststoff-Materialien in einem wässrigen Medium - Verfahren mittels Analyse des freigesetzten Kohlenstoffdioxides (ISO 14852:2021)

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 14852:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61 "Plastics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 249 “Plastics” the secretariat of which is held by NBN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2022.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 14852

Third edition
2021-06

Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide

Évaluation de la biodégradabilité aérobie ultime des matériaux plastiques en milieu aqueux — Méthode par analyse du dioxyde de carbone libéré

Reference number
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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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 14, *Environmental aspects,* in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 249, *Plastics,* in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 14852:2018), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— in the Scope and Clause 8, soil and compost have been excluded for the inoculums used in this document;

— in 8.4, number of flasks for checking the inoculum activity have been changed from three to two;

— the validity criteria has been revised to conform with ISO 14851.

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Introduction

With the increasing use of plastics, their recovery and disposal have become a major issue. As a first priority, recovery should be promoted. Biodegradable plastics are now emerging as one of the options available to solve such environmental problems. Plastic materials, such as products or packaging, which are sent to composting facilities should be potentially biodegradable. Therefore, it is very important to determine the potential biodegradability of such materials and to obtain an indication of their potential biodegradability.

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Determination of the ultimate aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials in an aqueous medium — Method by analysis of evolved carbon dioxide

WARNING — Sewage, activated sludge can contain potentially pathogenic organisms. Therefore, appropriate precautions should be taken when handling them. Toxic test compounds and those whose properties are unknown should be handled with care.

1 Scope

This document specifies a method, by measuring the amount of carbon dioxide evolved, for the determination of the degree of aerobic biodegradability of plastic materials, including those containing formulation additives. The test material is exposed in a synthetic medium under standardized laboratory conditions to an inoculum from activated sludge under aerobic conditions.

The conditions used in this document do not necessarily correspond to the optimum conditions allowing maximum biodegradation to occur, but this test method is designed to measure the biodegradation of plastic materials and give an indication of their potential biodegradability.

The method enables the assessment of the biodegradation to be improved by calculating a carbon balance (optional, see Annex C).

The method applies to the following materials:

— natural and/or synthetic polymers, copolymers or mixtures thereof;

— plastic materials which contain additives such as plasticizers, colorants or other compounds;

— water-soluble polymers;

— materials which, under the test conditions, do not inhibit the microorganisms present in the inoculum. Inhibitory effects can be determined using an inhibition control or by another appropriate method (see, for example, ISO 8192[1]). If the test material is inhibitory to the inoculum, a lower test concentration, another inoculum or a pre-exposed inoculum can be used.

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.

ISO 8245, *Water quality — Guidelines for the determination of total organic carbon (TOC) and dissolved organic carbon (DOC)*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

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