

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE



**Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products –
Part 7-1: Hexavalent chromium – Presence of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) in
colourless and coloured corrosion-protected coatings on metals by the
colorimetric method**

**Détermination de certaines substances dans les produits électrotechniques –
Partie 7-1: Chrome hexavalent – Présence de chrome hexavalent (Cr(VI)) dans
les revêtements incolores et colorés de protection anticorrosion appliqués sur
les métaux à l'aide de la méthode colorimétrique**



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INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 13.020; 43.040.10

ISBN 978-2-8322-2895-1

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES
IN ELECTROTECHNICAL PRODUCTS –****Part 7-1: Hexavalent chromium – Presence of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI))
in colourless and coloured corrosion-protected coatings
on metals by the colorimetric method**

FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62321-7-1 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 111: Environmental standardization for electrical and electronic products and systems.

The first edition of IEC 62321:2008 was a 'stand-alone' standard that included an introduction, an overview of test methods, a mechanical sample preparation as well as various test method clauses.

This first edition of IEC 62321-7-1 is a partial replacement of IEC 62321:2008, forming a structural revision and generally replacing informative Annex B.

Future parts in the IEC 62321 series will gradually replace the corresponding clauses in IEC 62321:2008. Until such time as all parts are published, however, IEC 62321:2008 remains valid for those clauses not yet re-published as a separate part.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
111/380/FDIS	111/393/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 62321 series can be found on the IEC website under the general title: *Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products*.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

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INTRODUCTION

The widespread use of electrotechnical products has drawn increased attention to their impact on the environment. In many countries this has resulted in the adaptation of regulations affecting wastes, substances and energy use of electrotechnical products.

The use of certain substances (e.g. lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd) and polybrominated diphenylethers (PBDE's)) in electrotechnical products is a source of concern in current and proposed regional legislation.

The purpose of the IEC 62321 series is therefore to provide test methods that will allow the electrotechnical industry to determine the levels of certain substances of concern in electrotechnical products on a consistent global basis.

WARNING – Persons using this International Standard should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This standard 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.

DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN ELECTROTECHNICAL PRODUCTS –

Part 7-1: Hexavalent chromium – Presence of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) in colourless and coloured corrosion-protected coatings on metals by the colorimetric method

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62321 describes a boiling water extraction procedure intended to provide a qualitative determination of the presence of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) in colourless and coloured corrosion-protection coatings on metallic samples.

Due to its highly reactive nature, the concentration of Cr(VI) in a corrosion-protection coating can change drastically with time and storage conditions. Since storage conditions prior to sample submission are not often known or provided with the samples, this procedure determines the presence of Cr(VI) based on the levels detected in the coatings at the time of testing. For testing of freshly coated samples, a minimum waiting period of 5 days (after the coating process) is necessary to ensure the coatings have stabilized. This waiting period allows potential post-process oxidation of Cr(III) to Cr(VI) to occur prior to testing.

The presence of Cr(VI) is determined by the mass of Cr(VI) per surface area of the coating, in $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$. This approach is preferred since corrosion-protection coating weights are often difficult to measure accurately after production. From a coating technology perspective, the industry as a whole has transitioned to either using the non-Cr(VI) based chemistries – where little to no Cr(VI) should be present – or using the traditional Cr(VI) based chemistries – where significant levels of Cr(VI) are present and can be detected reliably. Given this industry shift, the presence or absence of Cr(VI) is often sufficient for compliance testing purposes.

In this procedure, when Cr(VI) in a sample is detected below the $0,10 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ LOQ (limit of quantification), the sample is considered to be negative for Cr(VI). Since Cr(VI) may not be uniformly distributed in the coating even within the same sample batch, a “grey zone” between $0,10 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ and $0,13 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ has been established as “inconclusive” to reduce inconsistent results due to unavoidable coating variations. In this case, additional testing may be necessary to confirm the presence of Cr(VI). When Cr(VI) is detected above $0,13 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$, the sample is considered to be positive for the presence of Cr(VI) in the coating layer.

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.

IEC 62321-1, *Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products – Part 1: Introduction and overview*

IEC 62321-2, *Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products – Part 2: Disassembly, disjointment and mechanical sample preparation*

ISO 78-2, *Chemistry – Layouts for standards – Part 2: Methods of chemical analysis*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use – Specification and test methods*