IEC 62321-7-2

Edition 1.0 2017-03

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Determination of certain substances in electrotechnical products – Part 7-2: Hexavalent chromium – Determination of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) in polymers and electronics by the colorimetric method

Détermination de certaines substances dans les produits électrotechniques – Partie 7-2: Chrome hexavalent – Détermination du chrome hexavalent (Cr(VI)) dans les polymères et les produits électroniques par méthode colorimétrique

IEC 62321-7-2:2017-03(en-fr)

IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

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FOREWORD

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International Standard IEC 62321-7-2 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 62321-7-2 is a partial replacement of IEC 62321:2008, forming a structural revision and generally replacing Annex C. IEC 62321-7-2 is the final replacement part of the corresponding clauses in IEC 62321:2008.

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

CDV	Report on voting
111/408/CDV	111/432/RVC

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

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

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

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

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- withdrawn,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

INTRODUCTION

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

The use of hexavalent chromium in electrotechnical products is of concern in many regions of the world.

The purpose of this document is therefore to provide test methods that will allow the electrotechnical industry to determine the levels of hexavalent chromium in electrotechnical products on a consistent global basis.

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.

DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN ELECTROTECHNICAL PRODUCTS –

Part 7-2: Hexavalent chromium – Determination of hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) in polymers and electronics by the colorimetric method

1 Scope

This part of IEC 62321 describes procedures to measure hexavalent chromium, Cr(VI), quantitatively in samples of polymers and electronics. This method employs organic solvent to dissolve or swell the sample matrix, followed by an alkaline digestion procedure to extract Cr(VI) from samples. Studies have shown that organic/alkaline solution is more effective than acidic solution in extracting Cr(VI) from soluble and insoluble samples. Minimal reduction of Cr(VI) to Cr(III) or oxidation of Cr(III) to Cr(VI) occurs under alkaline conditions.

For soluble polymers consisting of ABS (Acrylonitrile- butadiene-styrene), PC (Polycarbonate) and PVC (poly(vinyl chloride)), the samples are first dissolved in an appropriate organic solvent and Cr(VI) is then extracted by an alkaline extraction solution.

For insoluble/unknown polymers, or electronic materials that do not contain antimony (Sb), the samples are digested in a toluene/alkaline solution at 150 °C to 160 °C. Then the organic phase in the extracts are separated and discarded; the inorganic phase is retained for Cr(VI) analysis.

The Cr(VI) concentration in the extract is determined by its reaction under acidic conditions with 1,5-diphenylcarbazide. Cr(VI) is reduced to Cr(III) in the reaction with diphenylcarbazide which is oxidized to diphenylcarbazone. The Cr(III) and diphenylcarbazone form a red-violet-coloured complex in the reaction. The complex solution is measured quantitatively by a colorimeter or a spectrophotometer at 540 nm.

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.

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

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

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 62321-1 apply.