



BSI Standards Publication

# Chemicals used for treatment of water intended for human consumption — Magnesium oxide

**National foreword**

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 16004:2011.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee CII/59, Chemicals for drinking water treatment.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

© BSI 2011

ISBN 978 0 580 68718 1

ICS 13.060.20; 71.100.80

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 December 2011.

**Amendments issued since publication**

Date	Text affected
------	---------------

---

EUROPEAN STANDARD

**EN 16004**

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

November 2011

ICS 71.100.80

English Version

## Chemicals used for treatment of water intended for human consumption - Magnesium oxide

Produits chimiques utilisés pour le traitement de l'eau destinée à la consommation humaine - Oxyde de magnésium

Produkte zur Aufbereitung von Wasser für den menschlichen Gebrauch - Magnesiumoxid

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 8 October 2011.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

## Contents

Page

Foreword.....	4
Introduction .....	5
1 Scope .....	6
2 Normative references .....	6
3 Description .....	6
3.1 Identification.....	6
3.1.1 Chemical name.....	6
3.1.2 Synonym or common name.....	6
3.1.3 Relative molecular mass.....	6
3.1.4 Empirical formula.....	6
3.1.5 Chemical formula.....	6
3.1.6 CAS Registry Number .....	6
3.1.7 EINECS reference .....	7
3.2 Commercial forms .....	7
3.3 Physical properties.....	7
3.3.1 Appearance .....	7
3.3.2 Density .....	7
3.3.3 Solubility in water .....	7
3.3.4 Particle size .....	7
3.4 Chemical properties .....	7
4 Purity criteria.....	7
4.1 General.....	7
4.2 Composition of commercial product.....	8
4.3 Impurities and main by-product .....	8
4.4 Chemical parameters .....	8
5 Test methods.....	9
5.1 Sampling.....	9
5.2 Analyses .....	9
6 Labelling - Transportation - Storage.....	9
6.1 Means of delivery.....	9
6.2 Risk and safety labelling according to the EU directives .....	9
6.3 Transportation regulations and labelling.....	10
6.4 Marking .....	10
6.5 Storage.....	10
6.5.1 Long term stability.....	10
6.5.2 Storage incompatibilities .....	10
Annex A (informative) General information on magnesium oxide .....	11
A.1 Origin .....	11
A.1.1 Raw materials.....	11
A.1.2 Manufacturing process .....	11
A.2 Use .....	11
A.2.1 Function.....	11
A.2.2 Other properties.....	11
A.2.3 Form in which it is used .....	11
A.2.4 Treatment dose .....	11

<b>A.2.5</b>	<b>Means of application</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>A.2.6</b>	<b>Secondary effects</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>A.2.7</b>	<b>Removal of excess product</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>A.3</b>	<b>Rules for safe handling and use</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>A.4</b>	<b>Emergency procedures</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>A.4.1</b>	<b>First aid</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>A.4.2</b>	<b>Spillage</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>A.4.3</b>	<b>Fire</b> .....	<b>12</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b> .....	<b>13</b>

## Foreword

This document (EN 16004:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 164 "Water supply", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

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 May 2012, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2012.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

## Introduction

In respect of potential adverse effects on the quality of water intended for human consumption, caused by the product covered by this Standard:

- this Standard provides no information as to whether the product may be used without restriction in any of the Member States of the EU or EFTA;
- it should be noted that, while awaiting the adoption of verifiable European criteria, existing national regulations concerning the use and/or the characteristics of this product remain in force.

NOTE Conformity with the standard does not confer or imply acceptance or approval of the product in any of the Member States of the EU or EFTA. The use of the product covered by this European Standard is subject to regulation or control by National Authorities.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard is applicable to magnesium oxide used for treatment of water intended for human consumption. It describes the characteristics of magnesium oxide and specifies the requirements and the corresponding test methods for magnesium oxide. It gives information on its use in water treatment.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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.

EN 12485, *Chemicals used for treatment of water intended for human consumption — Calcium carbonate, high-calcium lime, half-burnt dolomite, magnesium oxide and calcium magnesium carbonate — Test methods*

ISO 3165, *Sampling of chemical products for industrial use — Safety in sampling*

ISO 6206, *Chemical products for industrial use — Sampling — Vocabulary*

## 3 Description

### 3.1 Identification

#### 3.1.1 Chemical name

Magnesium oxide.

#### 3.1.2 Synonym or common name

Periklas/magnesia.

#### 3.1.3 Relative molecular mass

40,31.

#### 3.1.4 Empirical formula

MgO.

#### 3.1.5 Chemical formula

MgO.

#### 3.1.6 CAS Registry Number <sup>1)</sup>

MgO: 1309-48-4.

---

1) Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number.



### 3.1.7 EINECS reference <sup>2)</sup>.

MgO: 215-171-9.

## 3.2 Commercial forms

Magnesium oxide is available in granular form of various particle size ranges.

## 3.3 Physical properties

### 3.3.1 Appearance

The product is a grey material in round granular form.

### 3.3.2 Density

The density is 3,6 g/cm<sup>3</sup> at 20 °C.

The bulk density is from 1,1 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 1,3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

### 3.3.3 Solubility in water

The solubility of product is equal to 0,0062 g/l at 20 °C.

### 3.3.4 Particle size

It varies depending on the application (see A.2.3).

## 3.4 Chemical properties

Magnesium oxide product reacts as an alkali when dissolved in water. With carbon dioxide and water it hydrolyses and reacts to form magnesium hydrogen carbonate.

## 4 Purity criteria

### 4.1 General

This European Standard specifies the minimum purity requirements for calcium magnesium oxide used for the treatment of water intended for human consumption. Limits are given for impurities commonly present in the product. Depending on the raw material and the manufacturing process other impurities may be present and, if so, this shall be notified to the user and when necessary to the relevant authorities.

**NOTE** Users of this product should check the national regulations in order to clarify whether it is of appropriate purity for treatment of water intended for human consumption, taking into account raw water quality, required dosage, contents of other impurities and additives used in the product not stated in this product standard.

Limits have been given for impurities and toxic substances where these are likely to be present in significant quantities from the current production process and raw materials. If a change in the production process or raw materials leads to significant quantities of other impurities or by-products being present, this shall be notified to the user.

---

2) European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances.

## 4.2 Composition of commercial product

The product shall conform to the requirements specified in Table 1:

**Table 1 — Composition of commercial product**

Parameter	in mass fraction in %
Content of magnesium oxide (MgO), in dry substance	> 70
Loss of ignition (CO <sub>2</sub> and H <sub>2</sub> O)	< 25

## 4.3 Impurities and main by-product

The product shall conform to the requirements specified in Table 2.

**Table 2 — Impurities**

Impurity		Limit in commercial product, in mass fraction in %
Content of free calcium oxide and calcium hydroxide, expressed as CaO	max.	5
Content of silicon dioxide, expressed as SiO <sub>2</sub>	max.	2
Content of aluminium oxide, expressed as Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	max.	1
Content of iron oxide expressed as Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	max.	2

## 4.4 Chemical parameters

The content of chemical parameters shall conform to the requirements specified in Table 3.

**Table 3 — Chemical parameters**

Parameter		Limit of product mg/kg, in dry substance
Antimony (Sb)	max.	3
Arsenic (As)	max.	3
Cadmium (Cd)	max.	2
Chromium (Cr)	max.	10
Lead (Pb)	max.	10
Mercury (Hg)	max.	0,5
Nickel (Ni)	max.	10
Selenium (Se)	max.	3

NOTE Other chemical parameters and indicator parameters are not relevant in magnesium oxide because the raw materials used in the manufacturing process are free of them. For parametric values of magnesium oxide on trace metal content in drinking water, see [1].

## 5 Test methods

### 5.1 Sampling

Observe the general recommendations of ISO 3165 and take account of ISO 6206.

Prepare the laboratory sample(s) required by the relevant procedure described in EN 12485.

### 5.2 Analyses

Use the relevant methods for analysis described in EN 12485.

## 6 Labelling - Transportation - Storage

### 6.1 Means of delivery

Magnesium oxide can be delivered in bags, containers and as a bulk material.

In order that the purity of the products is not affected, the means of delivery shall not have been used previously for any different product or it shall have been specially cleaned and prepared before use.

### 6.2 Risk and safety labelling according to the EU directives <sup>3)</sup>

At the date of publication of this standard, no labelling is required.

NOTE Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC contains a list of substances classified by the EU. Substances not listed in this

<sup>3)</sup> See [2] and [4].

regulation should be classified on the basis of their intrinsic properties according to the criteria in the Regulation by the person responsible for placing the product on the market.

### **6.3 Transportation regulations and labelling**

At the date of publication of this standard, Magnesium oxide products are not classified as dangerous goods.

### **6.4 Marking**

The marking shall include the following:

- "magnesium oxide", trade name and grade;
- net mass;
- name and address of supplier and/or manufacturer;
- the statement "this product conforms to EN 16004."

### **6.5 Storage**

#### **6.5.1 Long term stability**

Product can be stored for unlimited period of time if kept dry.

#### **6.5.2 Storage incompatibilities**

Product shall be kept away from acids.

## Annex A (informative)

### General information on magnesium oxide

#### A.1 Origin

##### A.1.1 Raw materials

Natural periklas or industrially produced magnesium oxide.

##### A.1.2 Manufacturing process

Magnesium oxide is manufactured by crushing and granulating.

#### A.2 Use

##### A.2.1 Function

Magnesium oxide is used to adjust pH value and hardness in water.

##### A.2.2 Other properties

Magnesium oxide can also be used for neutralizing mineral acids.

##### A.2.3 Form in which it is used

Magnesium oxide is used in the form of granular material.

**Table A.1 — Usual particle size range**

Dimensions in millimetres
0,5 – 2,5
2,0 – 5,0

If the particle size range is quoted, the content of oversize and undersize should not exceed 10 %.

##### A.2.4 Treatment dose

The quantities of magnesium oxide to be used depend on the application.

##### A.2.5 Means of application

Magnesium oxide is used in filters.

### **A.2.6 Secondary effects**

Filtration of suspended solids and removal of metals.

### **A.2.7 Removal of excess product**

Not applicable.

## **A.3 Rules for safe handling and use**

Not relevant.

## **A.4 Emergency procedures**

### **A.4.1 First aid**

Not relevant.

### **A.4.2 Spillage**

The spillage of product should be removed mechanically.

### **A.4.3 Fire**

The product is not combustible.

## Bibliography

- [1] 98/83/EC: Council Directive of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption
- [2] Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006
- [3] Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC
- [4] Directive 1999/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 1999 concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations







# British Standards Institution (BSI)

BSI is the national body responsible for preparing British Standards and other standards-related publications, information and services.

BSI is incorporated by Royal Charter. British Standards and other standardization products are published by BSI Standards Limited.

## About us

We bring together business, industry, government, consumers, innovators and others to shape their combined experience and expertise into standards-based solutions.

The knowledge embodied in our standards has been carefully assembled in a dependable format and refined through our open consultation process. Organizations of all sizes and across all sectors choose standards to help them achieve their goals.

## Information on standards

We can provide you with the knowledge that your organization needs to succeed. Find out more about British Standards by visiting our website at [bsigroup.com/standards](http://bsigroup.com/standards) or contacting our Customer Services team or Knowledge Centre.

## Buying standards

You can buy and download PDF versions of BSI publications, including British and adopted European and international standards, through our website at [bsigroup.com/shop](http://bsigroup.com/shop), where hard copies can also be purchased.

If you need international and foreign standards from other Standards Development Organizations, hard copies can be ordered from our Customer Services team.

## Subscriptions

Our range of subscription services are designed to make using standards easier for you. For further information on our subscription products go to [bsigroup.com/subscriptions](http://bsigroup.com/subscriptions).

With **British Standards Online (BSOL)** you'll have instant access to over 55,000 British and adopted European and international standards from your desktop. It's available 24/7 and is refreshed daily so you'll always be up to date.

You can keep in touch with standards developments and receive substantial discounts on the purchase price of standards, both in single copy and subscription format, by becoming a **BSI Subscribing Member**.

**PLUS** is an updating service exclusive to BSI Subscribing Members. You will automatically receive the latest hard copy of your standards when they're revised or replaced.

To find out more about becoming a BSI Subscribing Member and the benefits of membership, please visit [bsigroup.com/shop](http://bsigroup.com/shop).

With a **Multi-User Network Licence (MUNL)** you are able to host standards publications on your intranet. Licences can cover as few or as many users as you wish. With updates supplied as soon as they're available, you can be sure your documentation is current. For further information, email [bsmusales@bsigroup.com](mailto:bsmusales@bsigroup.com).

## BSI Group Headquarters

389 Chiswick High Road London W4 4AL UK

## Revisions

Our British Standards and other publications are updated by amendment or revision.

We continually improve the quality of our products and services to benefit your business. If you find an inaccuracy or ambiguity within a British Standard or other BSI publication please inform the Knowledge Centre.

## Copyright

All the data, software and documentation set out in all British Standards and other BSI publications are the property of and copyrighted by BSI, or some person or entity that owns copyright in the information used (such as the international standardization bodies) and has formally licensed such information to BSI for commercial publication and use. Except as permitted under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 no extract may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means – electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise – without prior written permission from BSI. Details and advice can be obtained from the Copyright & Licensing Department.

## Useful Contacts:

### Customer Services

**Tel:** +44 845 086 9001

**Email (orders):** [orders@bsigroup.com](mailto:orders@bsigroup.com)

**Email (enquiries):** [cservices@bsigroup.com](mailto:cservices@bsigroup.com)

### Subscriptions

**Tel:** +44 845 086 9001

**Email:** [subscriptions@bsigroup.com](mailto:subscriptions@bsigroup.com)

### Knowledge Centre

**Tel:** +44 20 8996 7004

**Email:** [knowledgecentre@bsigroup.com](mailto:knowledgecentre@bsigroup.com)

### Copyright & Licensing

**Tel:** +44 20 8996 7070

**Email:** [copyright@bsigroup.com](mailto:copyright@bsigroup.com)



...making excellence a habit.™