



BSI Standards Publication

## Indoor air

Part 3: Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in indoor air and test chamber air — Active sampling method

**National foreword**

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 16000-3:2011. It supersedes BS ISO 16000-3:2001, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EH/2/3, Ambient atmospheres.

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.

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**Indoor air —**

**Part 3:**

**Determination of formaldehyde and other  
carbonyl compounds in indoor air and  
test chamber air — Active sampling  
method**

*Air intérieur —*

*Partie 3: Dosage du formaldéhyde et d'autres composés carbonyles  
dans l'air intérieur et dans l'air des chambres d'essai — Méthode par  
échantillonnage actif*





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<b>Contents</b>		Page
Foreword .....		iv
Introduction.....		vi
<b>1</b> <b>Scope</b> .....		<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> <b>Normative references</b> .....		<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>Principle</b> .....		<b>2</b>
<b>4</b> <b>Limitations and interferences</b> .....		<b>2</b>
<b>5</b> <b>Safety measures</b> .....		<b>3</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Apparatus</b> .....		<b>4</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Reagents and materials</b> .....		<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Preparation of reagents and cartridges</b> .....		<b>7</b>
<b>9</b> <b>Procedure</b> .....		<b>10</b>
<b>10</b> <b>Calculations</b> .....		<b>19</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Performance criteria and quality assurance</b> .....		<b>20</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Precision and uncertainty</b> .....		<b>22</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Test report</b> .....		<b>22</b>
<b>Annex A</b> (informative) <b>Precision and uncertainty</b> .....		<b>23</b>
<b>Annex B</b> (informative) <b>Melting points of DNPH-carbonyl derivatives</b> .....		<b>25</b>
<b>Bibliography</b> .....		<b>26</b>

## 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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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

ISO 16000-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 146, *Air quality*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Indoor air*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 16000-3:2001), which has been technically revised.

ISO 16000 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Indoor air*:

- *Part 1: General aspects of sampling strategy*
- *Part 2: Sampling strategy for formaldehyde*
- *Part 3: Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in indoor air and test chamber air — Active sampling method*
- *Part 4: Determination of formaldehyde — Diffusive sampling method*
- *Part 5: Sampling strategy for volatile organic compounds (VOCs)*
- *Part 6: Determination of volatile organic compounds in indoor and test chamber air by active sampling on Tenax TA<sup>®</sup> sorbent, thermal desorption and gas chromatography using MS or MS-FID*
- *Part 7: Sampling strategy for determination of airborne asbestos fibre concentrations*
- *Part 8: Determination of local mean ages of air in buildings for characterizing ventilation conditions*
- *Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing — Emission test chamber method*
- *Part 10: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing — Emission test cell method*
- *Part 11: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing — Sampling, storage of samples and preparation of test specimens*
- *Part 12: Sampling strategy for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)*

- *Part 13: Determination of total (gas and particle-phase) polychlorinated dioxin-like biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins/dibenzofurans (PCDDs/PCDFs) — Collection on sorbent-backed filters*
- *Part 14: Determination of total (gas and particle-phase) polychlorinated dioxin-like biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins/dibenzofurans (PCDDs/PCDFs) — Extraction, clean-up and analysis by high-resolution gas chromatography and mass spectrometry*
- *Part 15: Sampling strategy for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)*
- *Part 16: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling by filtration*
- *Part 17: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Culture-based method*
- *Part 18: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling by impaction*
- *Part 19: Sampling strategy for moulds*
- *Part 23: Performance test for evaluating the reduction of formaldehyde concentrations by sorptive building materials*
- *Part 24: Performance test for evaluating the reduction of volatile organic compound (except formaldehyde) concentrations by sorptive building materials*
- *Part 25: Determination of the emission of semi-volatile organic compounds by building products — Micro-chamber method*
- *Part 26: Sampling strategy for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)*
- *Part 28: Determination of odour emissions from building products using test chambers*

The following parts are under preparation:

- *Part 21: Detection and enumeration of moulds — Sampling from materials*
- *Part 27: Determination of settled fibrous dust on surfaces by SEM (scanning electron microscopy) (direct method)*
- *Part 29: Test methods for VOC detectors*
- *Part 30: Sensory testing of indoor air*
- *Part 31: Measurement of flame retardants and plasticizers based on organophosphorus compounds — Phosphoric acid ester*
- *Part 32: Investigation of constructions on pollutants and other injurious factors — Inspections*

## Introduction

This part of ISO 16000 is intended to be used for characterizing indoor air following the sampling strategy specified in ISO 16000-2. It is applicable to formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds. It has been tested for 14 aldehydes and ketones. Formaldehyde is the simplest carbonyl compound, with one carbon, one oxygen and two hydrogen atoms. In its monomolecular state, it is a colourless, pungent, reactive gas. It has been used in the production of urea-formaldehyde resins, adhesives, and insulating foams. Emissions from particle (chip) board and wall insulation are the major sources of formaldehyde in indoor air.

Formaldehyde is collected by passing air through a reactive medium that converts the compound to a derivative of lower vapour pressure that is more efficiently retained by the sampler and can be easily analysed. This part of ISO 16000 determines formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds by reaction with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine coated on to a sorbent to convert them to their corresponding hydrazones, which can be recovered and measured with high sensitivity, precision, and accuracy. Other carbonyl compounds that may be emitted into air from solvents, adhesives, cosmetics, and other sources can also be determined using this part of ISO 16000.

The sampling procedure is based on US EPA method TO-11A<sup>[12]</sup>.

Formaldehyde and certain other carbonyl compounds have a high toxic potential<sup>[15]</sup>.

ISO 16017<sup>[7][8]</sup> and ISO 12219<sup>[2]–[6]</sup> also focus on volatile organic compound (VOC) measurements.



## Indoor air —

### Part 3:

## Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in indoor air and test chamber air — Active sampling method

**WARNING —** Persons using this part of ISO 16000 should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This part of ISO 16000 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.

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 16000 specifies a determination of formaldehyde (HCHO) and other carbonyl compounds (aldehydes and ketones)<sup>1)</sup> in air. The method is specific to formaldehyde but, with modification, at least 12 other aromatic as well as saturated and unsaturated aliphatic carbonyl compounds can be detected and quantified. It is suitable for determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in the approximate concentration range 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 1 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. The sampling method gives a time-weighted average (TWA) sample. It can be used for long-term (1 h to 24 h) or short-term (5 min to 60 min) sampling of air for formaldehyde.

This part of ISO 16000 specifies a sampling and analysis procedure for formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds that involves collection from air on to adsorbent cartridges coated with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) and subsequent analysis of the hydrazones formed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with detection by ultraviolet absorption<sup>[12],[16]</sup>. The method is not suitable for longer chained or unsaturated carbonyl compounds.

This part of ISO 16000 applies to the determination of:

acetaldehyde	2,5-dimethylbenzaldehyde	<i>m</i> -tolualdehyde
acetone	formaldehyde	<i>o</i> -tolualdehyde
benzaldehyde	isovaleraldehyde	<i>p</i> -tolualdehyde
butyraldehyde	propionaldehyde	valeraldehyde
capronaldehyde		

1) Instead of systematic IUPAC nomenclature, traditional names are used in this part of ISO 16000. Some equivalent names are:

acetaldehyde: ethanal	formaldehyde: methanal	<i>o</i> -tolualdehyde: 2-methylbenzaldehyde
acetone: 2-propanone	isovaleraldehyde: 3-methylbutanal	<i>p</i> -tolualdehyde: 4-methylbenzaldehyde
butyraldehyde: butanal	propionaldehyde: propanal	valeraldehyde: pentanal
capronaldehyde: hexanal	<i>m</i> -tolualdehyde: 3-methylbenzaldehyde	

## 2 Normative references

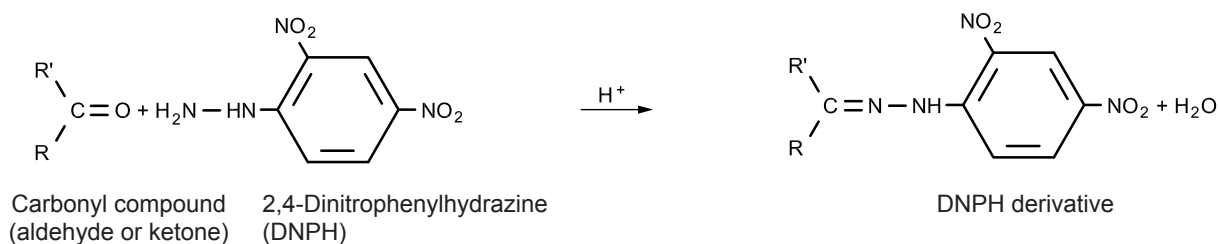
The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

## 3 Principle

The method specified in this part of ISO 16000 involves drawing air through a cartridge containing silica gel coated with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) reagent. The principle of the method is based on the specific reaction of a carbonyl group with DNPH in the presence of an acid to form stable derivatives according to the reaction shown in Figure 1. The DNPH derivatives are analysed for the parent aldehydes and ketones utilizing high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with UV detection or diode array detection. The detection has been extended to other carbonyl compounds that can be determined as outlined in 9.3.5.

This part of ISO 16000 instructs the user on how to prepare sampling cartridges from commercially available chromatographic grade silica gel cartridges by the application of acidified DNPH to each cartridge. Alternatively, pre-coated DNPH silica gel cartridges are available and are recommended since they are generally more uniform in manufacture and possess lower blank levels. However, if commercial cartridges are used, they shall be demonstrated to meet the performance criteria of this part of ISO 16000. Another advantage of commercial cartridges is that they are available with larger particle size silica gel that results in a lower pressure drop across the cartridge. These low pressure drop cartridges may be more suitable for sampling air using battery-powered personal sampling pumps.



### Key

R, R' H, alkyl group, aromatic group

Figure 1 — Reaction of carbonyl compounds to form 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazones

## 4 Limitations and interferences

### 4.1 General

The sampling flow rate specified in this part of ISO 16000 has been validated for sampling rates up to 1,5 l/min. This flow rate limitation is principally due to the high pressure drop (>8 kPa at 1,0 l/min) across the user-prepared silica gel cartridges, which have particle sizes of 55 µm to 105 µm. These cartridges are not generally compatible with battery-powered pumps used in personal sampling equipment (e.g. those used by industrial hygienists).

The solid-sorbent sampling procedure is specific for sampling and analysis of formaldehyde. Interferences in this method are caused by certain isomeric aldehydes or ketones that may be unresolved by the HPLC system when analysing for other aldehydes and ketones. Any organic compounds that have the same retention times and significant absorbance at 360 nm as the DNPH derivative of formaldehyde interfere. Such interferences can often be overcome by altering the separation conditions (e.g. using alternative HPLC columns or mobile phase compositions).

Formaldehyde contamination of the DNPH reagent is a frequently encountered problem. The DNPH shall be purified by multiple recrystallizations in UV-grade acetonitrile (ACN). Recrystallization is accomplished, at 40 °C to 60 °C, by slow evaporation of the solvent to maximize crystal size. Impurity levels of carbonyl compounds in the DNPH are determined prior to use by HPLC and should be less than 0,15 µg per cartridge.

Exposure of the DNPH-coated sampling cartridges to direct sunlight may produce artefacts and should be avoided<sup>[17]</sup>.

Acrolein and crotonaldehyde may not be accurately quantified by the method. Inaccurate results for these compounds may result from the formation of multiple derivative peaks and the instability of the peak ratios<sup>[18]</sup>.

Nitrogen dioxide reacts with DNPH. High concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub> (e.g. for gas cooking stoves) may cause problems as the retention time of the DNPH derivative may be similar to that of the DNPH formaldehyde derivative, depending on the HPLC column and the parameters<sup>[13][14][19]</sup>.

## 4.2 Ozone interference

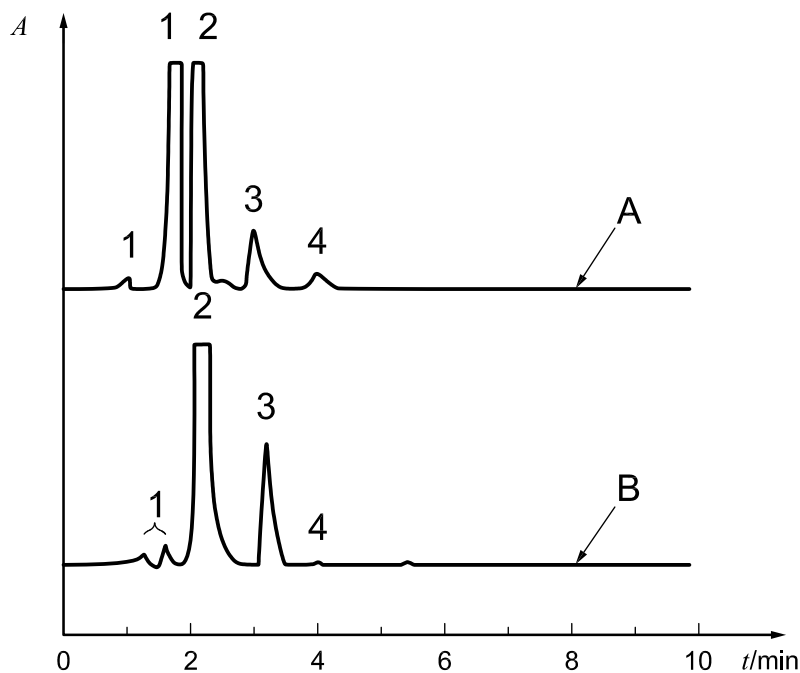
If there is suspicion that abnormally high levels of ozone are present in the area being sampled (e.g. from office copiers), special care should be exercised. Ozone has been shown to interfere negatively by reacting with both DNPH and its derivatives (hydrazones) in the cartridge<sup>[20]</sup>. The extent of interference depends on the temporal variations of both the ozone and the carbonyl compounds and the duration of sampling. Significant negative interference from ozone has been observed even at concentrations of formaldehyde and ozone typical of clean ambient air (2 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 80 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively)<sup>[19]</sup>. The presence of ozone in the sample is readily inferred upon analysis by the appearance of new compounds with retention times shorter than that of the hydrazone of formaldehyde. Figure 2 shows chromatograms of samples of a formaldehyde-spiked air stream with and without ozone.

The most direct solution to ozone interference is to remove the ozone before the sampled air reaches the cartridge. This can be accomplished by the use of an ozone denuder or scrubber placed in front of the cartridge. Both ozone denuders and scrubber cartridges are commercially available. A denuder may be constructed of 1 m of copper tubing of outside diameter 0,64 cm and of inside diameter 0,46 cm, that is filled with a saturated solution of potassium iodide in water, allowed to stand for a few minutes (e.g. 5 min), drained and dried with a stream of clean air or nitrogen for about 1 h. The capacity of the ozone denuder as specified is about 200 µg/m<sup>3</sup> h. Test aldehydes (formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, propionaldehyde, benzaldehyde and *p*-tolualdehyde) that were dynamically spiked into an ambient sample air stream passed through the ozone denuder with practically no losses<sup>[21]</sup>. Commercial ozone scrubbers made from a cartridge filled with 300 mg to 500 mg of granular potassium iodide have also been found to be effective in removing ozone<sup>[22]</sup>.

## 5 Safety measures

**5.1** 2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine is explosive in the dry state and shall be handled with extreme care. It is also toxic (in the rat, LD<sub>50</sub> = 654 mg/kg), has been shown to be mutagenic in some tests, and is irritating to the eyes and skin.

**5.2** Perchloric acid at concentrations less than 68 % mass fraction is stable and non-oxidizing at room temperature. However, it is readily dehydrated at temperatures above 160 °C and can cause explosions on contact with alcohols, wood, cellulose, and other oxidizable materials. It should be stored in a cool, dry place and used only in a chemical fume hood with caution.



<b>Key</b>	
<i>A</i>	relative absorbance
<i>t</i>	time
A	with ozone
B	without ozone
1	unknown
2	DNPH
3	formaldehyde
4	acetaldehyde

**Figure 2 — Cartridge samples of formaldehyde in an air stream with and without ozone**

## 6 Apparatus

Usual laboratory apparatus and in particular the following.

### 6.1 Sampling

**6.1.1 Sampling cartridge**, packed with silica gel and coated with DNPH in accordance with Clause 8, or as available commercially.

The cartridge shall contain a minimum quantity of 350 mg of silica gel with a minimum DNPH loading of 0,29 % mass fraction. The ratio of the silica gel bed diameter to bed length shall not exceed 1:1. The capacity of the cartridge for formaldehyde shall be at least 75 µg and the collection efficiency at least 95 % at a sampling rate of 1,5 l/min. Sampling cartridges with very low blank levels and high performance are commercially available.

**NOTE** A pressure drop through the user-prepared sample cartridge of about 19 kPa at a sampling rate of 1,5 l/min has been observed. Some commercially available pre-coated cartridges exhibit lower pressure-drops, which permit the use of battery-operated personal sampling pumps.

**6.1.2 Air sampling pump**, capable of accurately and precisely sampling at a flow rate of 0,1 l/min to 1,5 l/min.

**6.1.3 Flow controller**, mass flow meters and mass flow controllers, or other suitable device for metering and setting air flow rates of 0,50 l/min to 1,20 l/min through the sample cartridge.

**6.1.4 Flow calibrator**, such as a rotameter, soap-bubble meter or wet test meter.

## 6.2 Sample preparation

**6.2.1 Cartridge containers**, e.g. borosilicate glass culture tubes (20 mm × 125 mm) with polypropylene screw caps, or other suitable containers, to transport coated cartridges.

**6.2.2 Polyethylene gloves**, to handle silica gel cartridges.

**6.2.3 Transportation containers**, friction-top metal cans (e.g. of volume 4 l) or other suitable containers, with polyethylene air-bubble packing or other suitable padding, to hold and cushion the sealed cartridge containers.

NOTE A heat-sealable foil-lined plastic pouch of the type included with some commercial pre-coated DNPH cartridges can be used for storing a DNPH-coated cartridge after sampling, if appropriate.

**6.2.4 Support for coating cartridges**. A syringe rack, made from an aluminium plate (0,16 cm × 36 cm × 53 cm) with adjustable legs on four corners. A matrix (5 × 9) of circular holes of diameter slightly larger than the diameter of the 10 ml syringes, symmetrically drilled from the centre of the plate, to enable batch processing of 45 cartridges for cleaning, coating and/or sample elution (see Figure 3).

**6.2.5 Cartridge-drying manifold**, such as a support with gas connectors and with multiple standard male syringe connectors (see Figure 3).

NOTE The apparatus specified in 6.2.4 and 6.2.5 is needed only if users choose to make their own DNPH-coated cartridges.

## 6.3 Sample analysis

**6.3.1 HPLC system**, consisting of:

- a) a mobile phase reservoir with an outgassing device (e.g. membrane under reduced pressure);
- b) a high-pressure pump;
- c) an injection valve (automatic sampler with a 25 µl or other convenient loop volume);
- d) a C-18 reverse phase (RP) column (e.g. 25 cm × 4,6 mm inside diameter, 5 µm particle size);
- e) a UV detector or diode array detector operating at 360 nm;
- f) a data system or strip chart recorder.

The DNPH-formaldehyde derivative is determined using isocratic reverse phase HPLC, equipped with an ultraviolet (UV) absorption detector operated at 360 nm. A blank cartridge is likewise desorbed and analysed. Formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in the sample are identified and quantified by comparison of their retention times and peak heights or peak areas with those of standard solutions.

NOTE 1 Most commercial HPLC analytical systems are adequate for this application.

NOTE 2 A column oven can be used to assure constant column operating temperature and improve reproducibility.

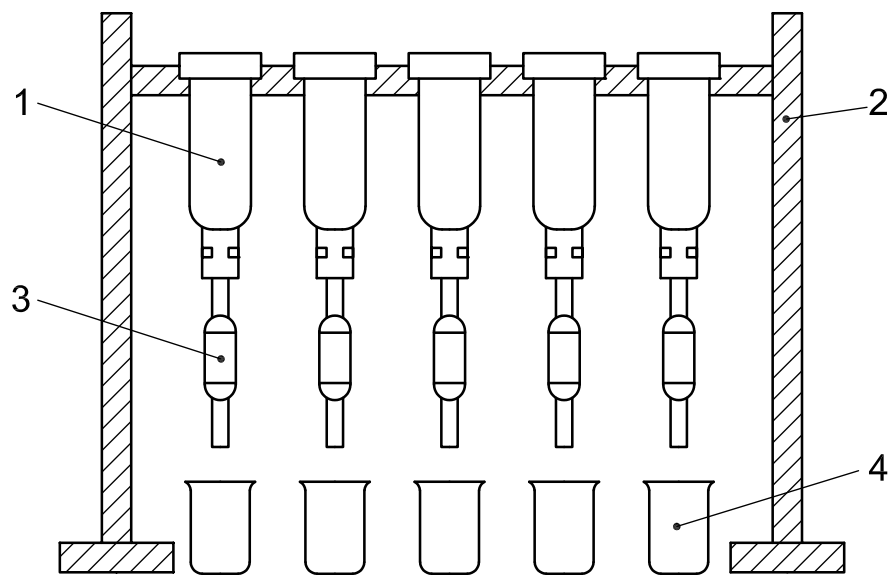
### 6.3.2 Syringes and pipettes

**6.3.2.1 HPLC injection syringes**, with capacity at least four times the loop volume (see 6.3.1).

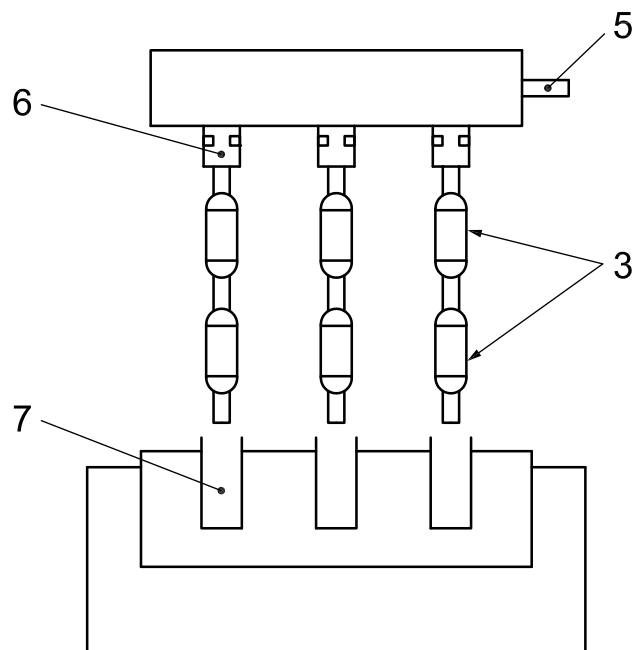
**6.3.2.2 Syringes**, volume 10 ml, used to prepare DNPH-coated cartridges (polypropylene syringes are adequate).

**6.3.2.3 Syringe fittings and plugs**, to connect cartridges to the sampling system and to cap prepared cartridges.

**6.3.2.4 Pipettes**, positive-displacement, repetitive-dispensing type, with capacities in the 0 ml to 10 ml range, ISO 8655-2<sup>[1]</sup>.



a) Rack for coating cartridges



b) Rack for drying DNPH-coated cartridges

**Key**

- |   |                      |   |                           |
|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | 10 ml glass syringes | 5 | N <sub>2</sub> gas stream |
| 2 | test tube rack       | 6 | syringe fitting           |
| 3 | cartridges           | 7 | waste vials               |
| 4 | waste beakers        |   |                           |

**Figure 3 — Syringe rack for coating and drying sample cartridges**

## 7 Reagents and materials

During the analysis, unless otherwise stated, use only reagents of recognized analytical grade, e.g. best quality grade, grade for chemical analysis or grade for HPLC analysis, and distilled or demineralized water or water of equivalent purity.

- 7.1 **2,4-Dinitrophenylhydrazine**, recrystallized at least twice with UV-grade acetonitrile before use.
- 7.2 **Acetonitrile**, UV grade (each batch of solvent should be tested before use).
- 7.3 **Perchloric acid**, 60 % mass fraction,  $\rho = 1,51$  kg/l, reagent grade (best source).
- 7.4 **Hydrochloric acid**, 36,5 % to 38 % mass fraction,  $\rho = 1,19$  kg/l, reagent grade (best source).
- 7.5 **Hydrochloric acid**, 2 mol/l, reagent grade (best source).
- 7.6 **Formaldehyde**, 37 % mass fraction solution, reagent grade (best source).
- 7.7 **Aldehydes and ketones**, high purity, used for preparation of DNPH derivative standards (optional).
- 7.8 **Ethanol or methanol**, HPLC grade.
- 7.9 **Nitrogen**, high purity grade (best source).
- 7.10 **Charcoal**, granular (best source).
- 7.11 **Helium**, high purity grade (best source).

## 8 Preparation of reagents and cartridges

### 8.1 Purification of 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine

Formaldehyde contamination of the DNPH reagent is a frequently encountered problem. The DNPH (7.1) shall be purified by multiple recrystallizations in UV-grade acetonitrile (7.2). Recrystallization is accomplished, at 40 °C to 60 °C, by slow evaporation of the solvent to maximize crystal size. Impurity levels of carbonyl compounds in the DNPH are determined prior to use by HPLC and should be less than 0,15 µg per cartridge and per individual compound.

Prepare a supersaturated solution of DNPH by boiling excess DNPH in 200 ml of acetonitrile for approximately 1 h. After 1 h, remove and transfer the supernatant to a covered beaker on a hot plate and allow gradual cooling to 40 °C to 60 °C. Maintain the solution at this temperature (40 °C) until 95 % volume fraction of solvent has evaporated. Decant the solution to waste, and rinse the remaining crystals twice with three times their apparent volume of acetonitrile. Transfer the crystals to another clean beaker, add 200 ml of acetonitrile, heat to boiling, and again let crystals grow slowly at 40 °C to 60 °C until 95 % volume fraction of the solvent has evaporated. Repeat the rinsing process as specified above. Take an aliquot of the second rinse, dilute 10 times with acetonitrile, acidify with 1 ml of 3,8 mol/l perchloric acid (7.3) per 100 ml of DNPH solution, and analyse by HPLC, in accordance with 9.3.4.

**WARNING — Carry out this procedure under a properly ventilated hood and behind an explosion shield.**

**NOTE** An acid is necessary to catalyse the reaction of carbonyl compounds with DNPH. Most strong inorganic acids such as hydrochloric, sulfuric, phosphoric or perchloric acids perform satisfactorily. In rare cases, hydrochloric and sulfuric acids cause problems.

An acceptable impurity level is <0,025 µg/ml of formaldehyde hydrazone in recrystallized DNPH reagent or 0,02 % mass fraction of the DNPH.



If the impurity level is not acceptable for the intended sampling application, repeat recrystallization. Transfer the purified crystals to an all-glass reagent bottle, add 200 ml of acetonitrile, stopper, shake gently, and allow to stand overnight. Analyse the supernatant by HPLC according to 9.3.4. If the impurity level is not satisfactory, pipette off the solution to waste, then add 25 ml of acetonitrile to the purified crystals. Repeat rinsing with 20 ml portions of acetonitrile until a satisfactorily low impurity level in the supernatant is confirmed by HPLC analysis.

If the impurity level is satisfactory, add another 25 ml of acetonitrile, stopper, shake the reagent bottle, then set aside. The saturated solution above the purified crystals is the stock DNPH reagent. Maintain only a minimum volume of saturated solution adequate for day-to-day operation. This minimizes waste of purified reagent, should it be necessary to re-rinse the crystals to decrease the level of impurity for applications requiring more stringent purity specifications. Use clean pipettes when removing saturated DNPH stock solution for any analytical applications. Do not pour the stock solution from the reagent bottle.

## 8.2 Preparation of DNPH-formaldehyde derivative

To a portion of the recrystallized DNPH (8.1) add sufficient 2 mol/l HCl (7.5) to obtain an approximately saturated solution. Add to this solution formaldehyde (7.6) in molar excess of the DNPH. Filter the DNPH-formaldehyde precipitate, wash it with 2 mol/l HCl and water, and allow it to dry in air.

Check the purity of the DNPH-formaldehyde derivative by melting point determination (165 °C to 166 °C) or HPLC analysis. If the impurity level is not acceptable, recrystallize the derivative in ethanol (7.8). Repeat the purity check and recrystallize as necessary until an acceptable level of purity (e.g. 99 % mass fraction) is achieved.

The DNPH-formaldehyde derivative should be stored under refrigeration (4 °C) and protected from light. It should be stable for at least 6 months. Storage under nitrogen (7.9) or argon further prolongs the lifetime of the derivative.

Melting points of DNPH derivatives of several carbonyl compounds are given in Annex B.

DNPH derivatives of formaldehyde and other carbonyls (7.7) suitable for use as standards are commercially available both in the form of pure crystals and as individual or mixed stock solutions in acetonitrile.

## 8.3 Preparation of DNPH-formaldehyde standards

Prepare a standard stock solution of the DNPH-formaldehyde derivative by dissolving accurately weighed amounts in acetonitrile (7.2). Prepare a working calibration standard mix from the standard stock solution. The concentration of the DNPH-formaldehyde derivative in the standard mix solutions should be adjusted to reflect the range of concentrations expected in real samples.

Individual stock solutions of approximately 100 mg/l can be prepared by dissolving 10 mg of the solid derivative in 100 ml of acetonitrile. The individual solution is used to prepare calibration standards containing the derivative of interest at concentrations of 0,5 µg/ml to 20 µg/ml, that spans the concentration of interest.

Store all standard solutions in tightly capped containers in a refrigerator and protected from light. Allow them to equilibrate to room temperature before use. They should be replaced after 4 weeks.

## 8.4 Preparation of DNPH-coated silica gel cartridges

### 8.4.1 General

This procedure shall be performed in an atmosphere with a very low aldehyde background concentration. All glassware and plasticware shall be thoroughly cleaned and rinsed with deionized water and aldehyde-free acetonitrile (7.2). Contact of reagents with laboratory air shall be minimized. Polyethylene gloves shall be worn when handling the cartridges.



#### 8.4.2 DNPH coating solution

Pipette 30 ml of saturated DNPH stock solution into a 1 000 ml volumetric flask, then add 500 ml acetonitrile (7.2). Acidify with 1,0 ml of concentrated HCl (7.5).

The atmosphere above the acidified solution should preferably be filtered through a DNPH-coated silica gel cartridge, to minimize contamination from laboratory air. Shake solution, then make up to volume with acetonitrile. Stopper the flask, invert, and shake several times until the solution is homogeneous. Transfer the acidified solution to a reagent bottle equipped with a positive-displacement dispenser of capacity in the 0 ml to 10 ml range.

Prime the dispenser and slowly dispense 10 ml to 20 ml to waste. Dispense an aliquot solution to a sample vial, and check the impurity level of the acidified solution by HPLC according to 9.3.4. The impurity level of formaldehyde should be <0,025 µg/ml.

#### 8.4.3 Coating of silica gel cartridges

Open the cartridge package, connect the short end of the silica gel cartridge (6.1.1) to a 10 ml syringe, and place it in the syringe rack (6.2.4) as illustrated in Figure 3. Using a positive-displacement repetitive pipette (6.3.2.4), add 10 ml of acetonitrile (7.2) to each of the syringes. Let liquid drain to waste by gravity.

Remove any air bubbles that may be trapped between the syringe and the silica cartridge by displacing them with the acetonitrile in the syringe.

Set the repetitive dispenser, containing the acidified DNPH coating solution, to dispense 7 ml into the cartridges. Once the effluent flow at the outlet of the cartridge has stopped, dispense 7 ml of the coating reagent into each of the syringes. Let the coating reagent drain by gravity through the cartridge until flow at the other end of the cartridge stops. Wipe away the excess liquid at the outlet of each of the cartridges with clean tissue paper.

Assemble a drying manifold as shown in Figure 3 b). This contains a previously prepared DNPH-coated cartridge at each of the exit ports (e.g. scrubber or “guard cartridges”). These “guard cartridges” serve to remove traces of formaldehyde that may be present in the nitrogen (7.9) gas supply. They can be prepared by drying a few of the newly coated cartridges in accordance with the instructions below and “sacrificing” these few to ensure the purity of the rest.

Insert cartridge connectors [flared at both ends, 0,64 cm × 2,5 cm outside diameter polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) tubing with inside diameter slightly smaller than the outside diameter of the cartridge port] on to the long end of the scrubber cartridges.

Remove the cartridges from the syringes and connect the short ends of the cartridges to the open end of the cartridge connectors already attached to the scrubber cartridges.

Pass nitrogen (7.9) through each of the cartridges at about 300 ml/min to 400 ml/min. Rinse the exterior surfaces and outlet end of the cartridges with acetonitrile using a Pasteur pipette. After 15 min, stop the flow of nitrogen, wipe the cartridge exterior free of acetonitrile and remove the dried cartridges. Plug both ends of the coated cartridge with standard polypropylene male syringe plugs and place the plugged cartridge in a borosilicate glass culture tube with polypropylene screw caps (6.2.1).

Put a serial number and a lot number label on each of the individual cartridge glass storage containers and refrigerate the prepared lot until use.

Sampling cartridges have been found to be stable for at least 6 months when stored at 4 °C in the absence of light.

## 9 Procedure

### 9.1 Sample collection

Assemble the sampling system, and ensure that the pump (6.1.2) is capable of constant flow rate throughout the sampling period. The sampling cartridges (6.1.1) can be safely used for sampling air when the temperature is above 10 °C. If required, add an ozone denuder or scrubber (see 4.2).

Before sample collection, check the system for leaks. Plug the inlet (short end) of the cartridge so no flow is indicated at the outlet end of the pump. The flow meter should not indicate any air flow through the sampling apparatus.

For unattended or extended sampling periods, a mass flow controller (6.1.3) or, as appropriate, a compensated personal sampling pump is highly recommended to maintain constant flow. The flow controller should be set at least 20 % below the fixed maximum air flow rate through the cartridge.

NOTE 1 The silica gel is held in the cartridge between two fine-porosity filter frits. Air flow during sampling can change as airborne particulates deposit on the front frit. The flow change can be significant when sampling particulate-laden atmospheres.

Install the entire assembly (including a “dummy” sampling cartridge) and check the flow rate at a value near the desired rate. Flow rates of 0,5 l/min to 1,2 l/min shall be employed. The total number of moles of carbonyl in the volume of air sampled shall not exceed that of the DNPH (2 mg or 0,01 mol/cartridge; 1 mg to 2 mg/cartridge for commercially available pre-coated cartridges). In general, a safe estimate of the sample size should be lower than 75 % of the DNPH mass loading of the cartridge [100 µg to 200 µg as HCHO, with respect to interferences to be taken into account (see Clause 4)]. Generally, calibration can be accomplished using a soap-bubble flow meter or calibrated wet test meter (6.1.4) connected to the flow exit, assuming the system is leaktight.

NOTE 2 EN 1232<sup>[10]</sup> specifies an appropriate calibration scheme that does not require a sealed flow system downstream of the pump.

Measure and record the sampling flow rate at the beginning and end of the sampling period to determine sample volume. If the sampling period exceeds 2 h, the flow rate should be measured at intermediate points during the sampling period. Include a rotameter to allow observation of the flow rate without interruption of the sampling process. Alternatively, a sampling pump which directly measures and continuously records the flow rate can be used.

Before sampling, remove the cartridge container from the friction-top metal can or other suitable container. Let the cartridge warm to room temperature in the glass tube before connecting it to the sampling train.

With a commercial pre-coated DNPH cartridge, also let the cartridge warm to room temperature before connecting to the sampling train.

Using polyethylene gloves (6.2.2), remove the syringe plugs and connect the cartridge to the sampling system with a syringe adapter fitting. Connect the cartridge to the sampling train so that the short end becomes the sample inlet.

With commercial pre-coated DNPH cartridges, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Some commercial cartridges may be sealed-glass tubes. For these, break the ends of the cartridge with a tube breaker. Connect the cartridge by inserting the end with the smaller quantity of sorbent to the sampling train so that the larger quantity of sorbent is at the air inlet. Exercise care when handling the broken ends.

Turn the sampler on and adjust the flow to the desired rate. A typical flow rate through one cartridge is 1,0 l/min and 0,8 l/min for two cartridges in tandem. Operate the sampler for the desired period, with periodic recording of the sampling variables.

If the ambient air temperature during sampling is below 10 °C, the sampling cartridge should be kept in a warmer environment. No significant effects of relative humidity have been observed for sampling under various weather conditions — cold, wet and dry winter months as well as hot and humid summer months.

At the end of the sampling period, check the flow rate just before stopping the flow. If the flow rates at the beginning and end of the sampling period differ by more than 10 %, the sample should be marked as suspect.

If there is the need to convert the concentrations to standard conditions (temperature and pressure) by calculation, temperature and pressure have to be measured during sampling.

Immediately after sampling, remove the cartridge (using polyethylene gloves) from the sampling system, cap with the original end plugs, and place it back in the original labelled container. Seal with PTFE tape, and place in a friction-top can (6.2.3) containing 2 cm to 5 cm depth of granular charcoal (7.10) or in another suitable container with appropriate padding. If appropriate, a heat-sealable foil-lined plastic pouch may be used for storing the exposed cartridge. Refrigerate the exposed sample cartridge until analysis. The refrigeration period prior to analysis should not exceed 30 days.

If samples are to be transported to a central laboratory for analysis, the duration of the non-refrigerated period should be kept to a minimum, preferably less than 2 days.

Calculate the average sample flow rate from Equation (1):

$$\bar{q}_V = \frac{q_1 + q_2 + \dots + q_n}{n} \quad (1)$$

where

- $\bar{q}_V$  is the average flow rate, in millilitres per minute;
- $q_1, q_2 \dots q_n$  are the flow rates determined at beginning, end and intermediate points during sampling;
- $n$  is the number of points averaged.

The total flow is then calculated using Equation (2):

$$V_m = \frac{(t_2 - t_1) \times \bar{q}_V}{1\ 000} \quad (2)$$

where

- $V_m$  is the total volume, in litres, sampled at the measured temperature and pressure;
- $t_2$  is the stop time;
- $t_1$  is the start time;
- $t_2 - t_1$  is the total sampling duration, in minutes;
- $\bar{q}_V$  is the average flow rate, in millilitres per minute.

## 9.2 Process blanks

At least one field blank shall be analysed with each set of samples. For sets larger than 10 samples, a minimum of 10 % of the samples analysed shall be field blanks. The number of samples within a group or time frame, or both, should be recorded so that a specified percentage of field blanks is obtained for a given number of air samples. The field blank is treated identically to the samples except that no air is drawn through the cartridge. The performance criteria specified in 9.1 should be met for process blanks. It is desirable to analyse blank cartridges retained in the laboratory (lab blanks) as well, to distinguish between possible field and laboratory contamination.

### 9.3 Sample analysis

#### 9.3.1 Sample preparation

Return the samples to the laboratory in a suitable external container with 2 cm to 5 cm of granular charcoal (7.10) and store them in a refrigerator until analysis. Alternatively, the samples may also be stored alone in their individual containers. The time between sampling and analysis should not exceed 30 days.

#### 9.3.2 Sample desorption

Connect the sample cartridge (inlet or short end during sampling) to a clean syringe.

The liquid flow during desorption should be in the same direction as the air flow during sampling, to prevent insoluble particulates from getting into the eluate. Reverse desorption may be performed if the eluate is filtered prior to HPLC analysis. A filtered blank extract shall be analysed with each batch of samples to confirm that no contamination is being introduced by the filter.

Place the cartridge and syringe in the syringe rack. Desorb the DNPH derivatives of the carbonyls and the unreacted DNPH from the cartridge (gravity feed) by passing 5 ml of acetonitrile (7.2) from the syringe through the cartridge to a graduated test tube or to a 5 ml volumetric flask. Other volumes of acetonitrile may be appropriate, depending on the sampling cartridge used.

**NOTE** A dry cartridge has an acetonitrile holdup volume slightly greater than 1 ml. The eluate flow can stop before the acetonitrile in the syringe is completely drained into the cartridge because of air trapped between the cartridge filter and the syringe adapter tip. If this happens, displace the trapped air with the acetonitrile in the syringe using a long-tip disposable Pasteur pipette.

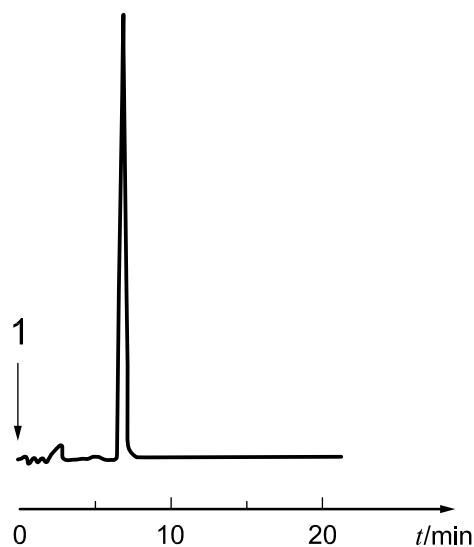
Make up to the 5 ml mark with acetonitrile. Label the flask with sample identification. Pipette an aliquot into a sample vial with a PTFE-lined septum. Analyse the aliquot for the carbonyl derivatives by HPLC. As a backup, a second aliquot may be taken and stored under refrigeration until the results of the analysis of the first aliquot are complete and validated. The second aliquot can be used for confirmatory analysis, if necessary.

For glass-sealed DNPH sampling tubes that contain two sorbent beds, uncap the end of the tube closest to the second sorbent layer (exit end). Carefully remove the spring (snap ring) and plug of glass wool holding the sorbent layer in place. Empty the sorbent into a clean 4 ml glass vial with a PTFE-lined septum or cap. Mark this as the backup sampling section. Carefully remove the next plug of glass wool and empty the remaining sorbent into another 4 ml vial. Mark this as the primary sampling section. Into each vial, carefully pipette 3 ml acetonitrile into each vial, cap the vials and allow to stand for 30 min with occasional agitation.

#### 9.3.3 HPLC calibration

Prepare calibration standards in acetonitrile (7.2) from the DNPH-formaldehyde derivative (see 8.3). Individual stock solutions of 100 mg/l are prepared by dissolving 10 mg of solid derivative in 100 ml of mobile phase.

Analyse each calibration standard (at least five levels) twice and tabulate area response against the mass injected (or, more conveniently, versus the DNPH-formaldehyde injected, for a fixed loop volume; see Figures 4 and 5). Perform all calibration runs as specified for sample analysis in 9.3.4. To avoid carry-over effects, start with the lower concentration. Using the UV detector or the diode array detector, a linear response range of approximately 0,05 µg/ml to 20 µg/ml should be achieved for 25 µl injection volumes. The results can be used to prepare a calibration curve, as illustrated in Figure 6. Linear response is indicated where a correlation coefficient of at least 0,999 for a linear least-squares fit of the data (concentration versus area response) is obtained. The retention times for each analyte should agree within 2 %.



**Key**

*t* time, in min

1 injection

**Operating parameters, HPLC**

Column: C-18 reverse phase

Mobile phase: 60 % volume fraction acetonitrile + 40 % volume fraction water

Detector: ultraviolet, at 360 nm

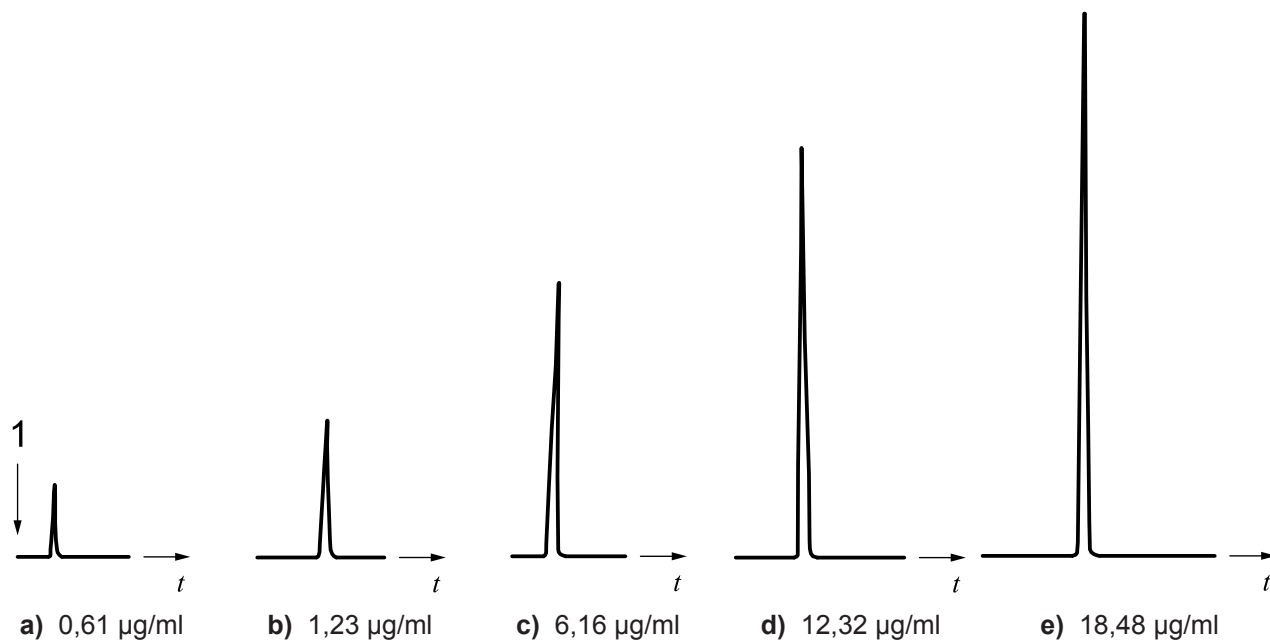
Flow rate: 1 ml/min

Retention time: about 7 min for formaldehyde

Sample injection volume: 25  $\mu$ l

**Figure 4 — Example chromatogram of DNPH-formaldehyde derivative**

Once linear response has been documented, an intermediate concentration standard near the anticipated levels of each component, but at least 10 times the detection limit, should be chosen for daily calibration. The day-to-day response for the various components should be within 10 % for analyte concentrations of 1  $\mu$ g/ml or greater, and below 20 % for analyte concentrations near 0,5  $\mu$ g/ml. If greater variability is observed, recalibrate or establish a new calibration curve from fresh standards.



**Key**

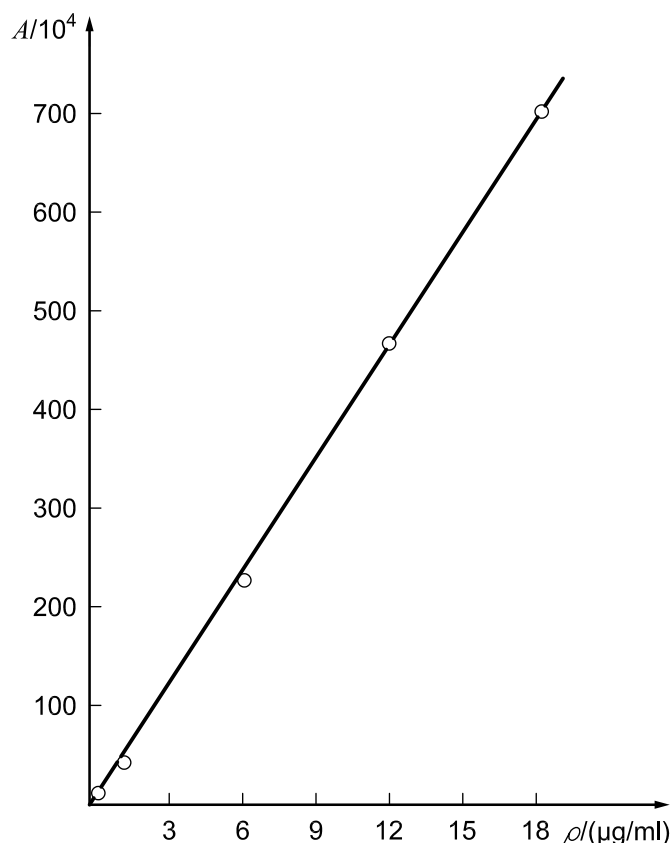
- t* time
- 1 injection

**Operating parameters, HPLC**

Column: C-18 reverse phase (4,6 mm inside diameter × 25 cm or equivalent)  
 Mobile phase: 60 % volume fraction acetonitrile + 40 % volume fraction water  
 Column temperature: 25 °C  
 Detector: ultraviolet, at 360 nm  
 Flow rate: 1 ml/min  
 Retention time: about 7 min for formaldehyde  
 Sample injection volume: 25 µl

Concentration µg/ml	Number of area counts
0,61	226 541
1,23	452 166
6,16	2 257 271
12,32	4 711 408
18,48	6 953 812

**Figure 5 — Examples of HPLC chromatograms of varying concentrations of DNP-formaldehyde derivative**



**Key**

$A$  number of area counts

$\rho$  mass concentration of DNP-H-formaldehyde derivative

**Operating parameters, HPLC**

Correlation coefficient: 0,999 9

Column: C-18 reverse phase

Mobile phase: 60 % volume fraction acetonitrile + 40 % volume fraction water

Detector: ultraviolet, at 360 nm

Flow rate: 1ml/min

Retention time: about 7 min for formaldehyde

Sample injection volume: 25  $\mu\text{l}$

**Figure 6 — Example calibration curve for formaldehyde**

**9.3.4 HPLC analysis for formaldehyde**

Assemble the HPLC system and calibrate as specified in 9.3.3. Typical operating parameters are given in the following.

An octadecylsilane column (100 mm  $\times$  5 mm inside diameter, 10  $\mu\text{m}$  particles) with a mobile phase of a 70 % volume fraction methanol + 30 % volume fraction water mixture has been found to provide sufficient resolution of the DNP-H-formaldehyde and possible interfering compounds. Either a gradient or an isocratic elution programme may be employed (see ISO 16000-4).

Alternatively, an isocratic mobile phase of a 60 % volume fraction acetonitrile + 40 % volume fraction water mixture has been shown to be suitable. The parameters are as follows:

Column	C-18 (4,6 mm inside diameter × 25 cm, or equivalent); a column oven may be used for more accurate temperature control, if needed
Mobile phase	60 % volume fraction acetonitrile + 40 % volume fraction water, isocratic, bath temperature 40 °C
Detector	Ultraviolet, operating at 360 nm
Flow rate	1,0 ml/min
Retention time	7 min for formaldehyde with one C-18 column, 13 min for formaldehyde with two C-18 columns
Sample injection volume	25 µl

Before each analysis, check the detector baseline to ensure stable conditions.

Prepare the HPLC mobile phase by mixing 600 ml of acetonitrile and 400 ml of water or set the parameters on the gradient elution HPLC appropriately. Filter this mixture through a 0,22 µm polyester membrane filter in an all-glass or PTFE suction filtration apparatus. Degas the filtered mobile phase by purging with helium (7.11) for 10 min to 15 min (100 ml/min) or by heating to 60 °C for 5 min to 10 min in an Erlenmeyer flask covered with a watch glass. A constant back-pressure restrictor (350 kPa) or short length (15 cm to 30 cm) of 0,25 mm inside diameter PTFE tubing should be placed after the detector to eliminate further mobile phase out-gassing.

NOTE 1 Instead of degassing the mobile phase (acetonitrile and water mixture) by helium purging or heating, common laboratory practice is to employ ultrasonic deaeration or on-line deaeration through membrane under reduced pressure.

Place the mobile phase in the HPLC solvent reservoir and set the pump at a flow rate of 1,0 ml/min. The bath temperature is set to 40 °C. Allow it to pump for 20 min to 30 min before the first analysis. Switch the detector on at least 30 min before the first analysis. Display the detector output on a strip chart recorder or similar output device.

For manual injection systems, draw at least 100 µl of the sample into a clean HPLC injection syringe. Fill the HPLC loop (load position of valve) by adding excess sample via the syringe. Turn the valve to the “inject” position to start the run. Activate the data system simultaneously with the injection, and mark the point of injection on the strip chart recorder. After approximately 1 min, return the injection valve to the load position and rinse or flush the syringe and valve with the acetonitrile and water mixture in preparation for the next sample analysis.

Do not syringe solvent through the HPLC loop while the valve is in the “inject” position.

After elution of the DNPH-formaldehyde derivative (see Figure 4), terminate data acquisition and calculate the component concentrations as specified in Clause 10. After a stable baseline is achieved, the system can be used for further sample analysis as specified in the preceding.

NOTE 2 After several cartridge analyses, buildup on the column (if indicated, e.g. by increasing pressure from run to run at a given flow and solvent composition) can be removed by flushing with several column volumes of 100 % volume fraction acetonitrile. The same protection can be achieved if precolumns are used.

If the concentration of analyte exceeds the linear range of the instrument, the sample should be diluted with mobile phase, or a smaller volume injected into the HPLC. If the retention time found in earlier runs is not duplicated to within ±10 %, the ratio of acetonitrile to water may be increased or decreased to obtain the correct elution time. If the elution time is too long, increase the ratio; if it is too short, decrease the ratio. If a solvent change is necessary, always recalibrate (see 9.3.3) before running samples.



NOTE 3 The chromatographic conditions specified here have been optimized for the detection of formaldehyde. Analysts are advised to experiment with their HPLC system to optimize chromatographic conditions for their particular analytical needs. HPLC systems with automated injection and start of data acquisition can also be used.

Examine the chromatogram for evidence of ozone interference in accordance with 4.2 and Figure 2.

### 9.3.5 HPLC analysis of other aldehydes and ketones

#### 9.3.5.1 General

Optimizing chromatographic conditions, by using two C-18 columns in series and varying the mobile phase composition through a gradient programme, enables the analysis of other aldehydes and ketones collected from air. In particular, chromatographic conditions can be optimized to separate acetone, propionaldehyde and some higher molecular mass aldehydes within an analysis time of about 1 h.

The linear gradient programme varies the mobile phase composition periodically to achieve maximum resolution of the C<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, and benzaldehyde region of the chromatogram. The following gradient programme was found to be adequate to achieve this goal: upon sample injection, linear gradient in volume fraction from 60 % volume fraction acetonitrile (ACN) + 40 % volume fraction water to 75 % volume fraction ACN + 25 % volume fraction water in 36 min; to 100 % volume fraction ACN in 20 min; 100 % ACN for 5 min; reverse linear gradient from 100 % ACN to 60 % volume fraction ACN + 40 % volume fraction water in 1 min; maintain at 60 % volume fraction ACN + 40 % volume fraction water for 15 min.

#### 9.3.5.2 Sample analysis for other carbonyl compounds

Assemble and calibrate the HPLC system as specified in 9.3.3. The operating parameters are:

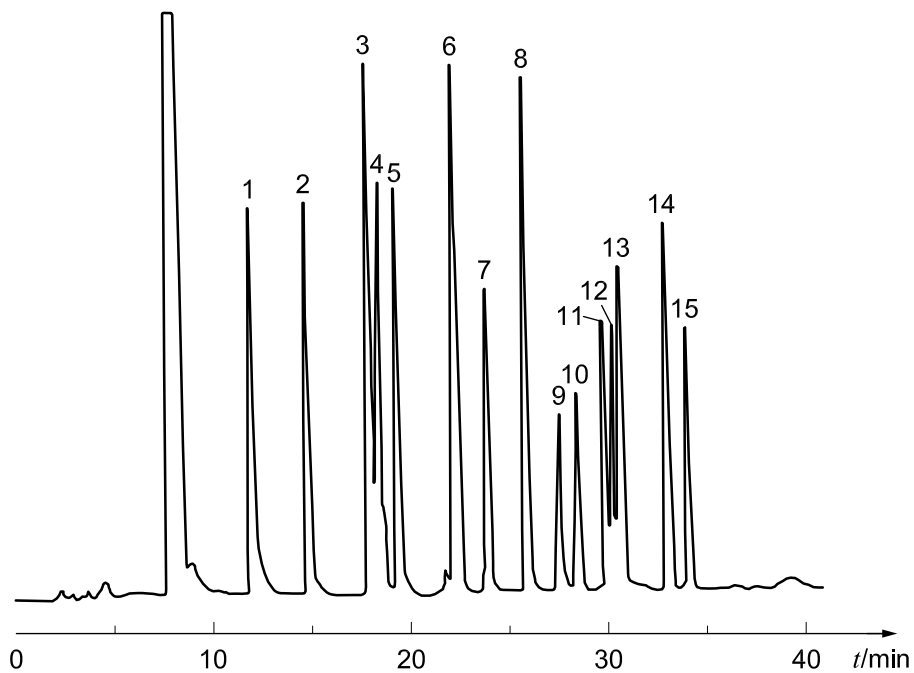
Column	C-18, two columns in series
Mobile phase	acetonitrile + water, linear gradient
Detector	ultraviolet, operating at 360 nm
Flow rate	1,0 ml/min
Programme	see 9.3.4

The chromatographic conditions described herein have been optimized for a gradient HPLC system equipped with a UV detector or a diode array detector, an automatic sampler with a 25 µl loop injector and two C-18 columns (4,6 mm × 250 mm), and a recorder or electronic integrator. Analysts are advised to experiment with their HPLC systems to optimize chromatographic conditions for their particular analytical needs. The separation of acrolein, acetone and propionaldehyde should be a minimum goal of the optimization.

NOTE Column manufacturers usually recommend optimal conditions for the separation of DNPH derivatives with their reverse phase columns. These recommendations can eliminate the need for dual columns without compromising the resolution of the carbonyl compounds.

The carbonyl compounds in the sample are identified and quantified by comparing their retention times and number of area counts with those of standard DNPH derivatives. Formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acetone, propionaldehyde, benzaldehyde and *o*-, *m*-, *p*-tolualdehydes can be identified with a high degree of confidence. The identification of butyraldehyde is less certain, because it coelutes with isobutyraldehyde and methyl ethyl ketone under the stated chromatographic conditions. However, acrolein and crotonaldehyde may be quantified with acceptable accuracy following special precautions<sup>[11]</sup>. Figure 7 illustrates a typical chromatogram obtained with the gradient HPLC system.

The concentrations of individual carbonyl compounds are determined as specified in 9.3.4.



Key  
 t time

Number	Peak identification	
	Compound	Concentration µg/ml
1	Formaldehyde	1,140
2	Acetaldehyde	1,000
3	Acrolein	1,000
4	Acetone	1,000
5	Propionaldehyde	1,000
6	Crotonaldehyde	1,000
7	Butyraldehyde <sup>a</sup>	1,000
8	Benzaldehyde	1,000
9	Isovaleraldehyde	0,450
10	Valeraldehyde	0,450
11	<i>o</i> -Tolualdehyde	0,515
12	<i>m</i> -Tolualdehyde	0,505
13	<i>p</i> -Tolualdehyde	0,510
14	Capronaldehyde	1,000
15	2,5-Dimethylbenzaldehyde	0,510

<sup>a</sup> The identification of butyraldehyde is less certain, because it coelutes with isobutyraldehyde and methyl ethyl ketone (2-butanone) under the stated chromatographic conditions. Therefore, special care should be exercised if this programme is to be used to determine butyraldehyde in the presence of either of the latter potentially interfering compounds.

Figure 7 — Example of chromatographic separation of DNPH hydrazones of 15 carbonyl standards

## 10 Calculations

Calculate the corrected total mass, in micrograms, of analyte (DNPH derivative) extracted from the cartridge,  $m_d$ , for each sample using Equation (3):

$$m_d = m_s - m_b \quad (3)$$

where

$m_s$  is the uncorrected mass of the DNPH derivative, in micrograms, on the sample cartridge;

$$m_s = A_s \frac{\gamma_{std}}{A_{std}} V_s d_s \quad (4)$$

$m_b$  is the analyte mass, in micrograms, in the blank cartridge;

$$m_b = A_b \frac{\gamma_{std}}{A_{std}} V_b d_b \quad (5)$$

in which

$A_s$  is the number of area counts, eluate from sample cartridge,

$A_b$  is the number of area counts, eluate from blank cartridge,

$A_{std}$  is the number of area counts, standard,

$\gamma_{std}$  is the concentration, in micrograms per millilitre, of analyte in the daily calibration standard,

$V_s$  is the total volume, in millilitres, of the sample cartridge eluate,

$V_b$  is the total volume, in millilitres, of the blank cartridge eluate,

$d_s$  is the dilution factor for the sample cartridge eluate:

= 1 if sample was not rediluted

=  $V_d/V_a$  if sample was rediluted to bring the detector response within linear range

where

$V_d$  is the redilution volume, in millilitres

$V_a$  is the aliquot used for redilution, in millilitres,

$d_b$  is the dilution factor for the blank cartridge eluate = 1,0.

Calculate the concentration, in nanograms per litre, of the carbonyl compound in the original sample,  $\gamma_A$ , from Equation (6):

$$\gamma_A = m_d \frac{M_c}{M_{der}} \times \frac{1\,000}{V_m} \quad (6)$$

where

$V_m$  is the total air sample volume, in litres, under indoor conditions, from 9.1;

$M_C$  is the molar mass of carbonyl compound (for formaldehyde = 30 g/mol);

$M_{\text{der}}$  is the molar mass of the DNPH derivative (for formaldehyde = 210 g/mol).

NOTE The use of parts per billion or parts per million is discouraged. However, for the convenience of certain users, the following information is provided.

To convert the carbonyl compound concentration,  $\gamma_A$ , to parts per billion ( $10^{-9}$ ) as a volume fraction, use Equation (7):

$$\varphi_{\text{As}} = \frac{\gamma_{\text{As}} \times 24,3}{M_C} \quad (7)$$

where

$\varphi_{\text{As}}$  is the concentration under standard conditions, in parts per billion ( $10^{-9}$ ) as a volume fraction, of carbonyl compound;

$\gamma_{\text{As}}$  is the concentration, in nanograms per litre, of carbonyl compound in the original sample, calculated using the air volume corrected to 23 °C and 101,3 kPa ( $V_s$ );

24,3 is the ideal gas volume, corrected to 23 °C, in nanolitres.

The corrected air total sample volume, in litres, at 23 °C and 101,3 kPa,  $V_s$ , is calculated from Equation (8):

$$V_s = \frac{V_m \bar{p}}{101,3} \times \frac{296,15}{273,15 + \bar{T}} \quad (8)$$

where

$V_m$  is the total sample volume, in litres, under indoor conditions;

$\bar{p}$  is the average indoor pressure, in kilopascals;

$\bar{T}$  is the average indoor temperature, in degrees Celsius.

If it is desired to obtain a concentration result in terms of parts per million ( $10^{-6}$ ) (23 °C and 101,3 kPa) to compare with standards stated in these terms, the volume sampled is not corrected for temperature and pressure.

## 11 Performance criteria and quality assurance

### 11.1 General

This clause summarizes required quality assurance measures and provides guidance concerning performance criteria that should be achieved within each laboratory.

The user shall adhere to the rules of ISO/IEC 17025.

### 11.2 Standard operating procedures (SOPs)

Users should generate SOPs describing the following activities in their laboratory: assembly, calibration, and operation of the sampling system, with the manufacturer and model of equipment used; preparation, purification, storage, and handling of sampling reagent and samples; assembly, calibration, and operation of the HPLC system, with make and model of equipment used; and all aspects of data recording and processing, including lists of computer hardware and software used.

The SOPs should provide specific stepwise instructions and should be readily available to and understood by the laboratory personnel conducting the work. The SOPs shall be consistent with this part of ISO 16000.

### 11.3 HPLC system performance

Calculate the column efficiency (theoretical plates),  $\eta$ , of the HPLC system according to Equation (9):

$$\eta = 5,54 \left( \frac{t_r}{b_{1/2}} \right)^2 \quad (9)$$

where

$t_r$  is the retention time, in seconds, of analyte;

$b_{1/2}$  is the width of the component peak at half-height, in seconds.

A column efficiency of >5 000 theoretical plates should be obtained.

The coefficient of variation (CV) (standard deviation) of the response for replicate HPLC injections should be  $\pm 10$  % or less, day to day, for analyte calibration standards at 1  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  or greater levels. At the 0,5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  level and below, the precision of replicate analyses can vary by up to 20 % for some carbonyl compounds. Precision of retention times should be better than  $\pm 7$  % on any given day.

### 11.4 Sample loss

Sample loss can occur when the capacity of the sorbent is exceeded, or when the flow rate exceeds the maximum compatible with complete collection. This possibility can be guarded against by setting two sampling cartridges in series, and analysing the contents of each, or by analysing both sections of a two-section sorbent cartridge. Should the quantity of collected analyte in the back-up section exceed 15 % of the analyte collected by the primary sampling section, breakthrough can be assumed to have occurred and may have compromised the accuracy of the results.

### 11.5 Measurement plan

The measurement plan shall specify the measures to be taken to meet the quality requirements specified by the client.

It is advisable to carry out replicate sampling. One or more of the samples may be archived for later analysis, if desired. The recovery rates shall be documented.

Important criteria to be taken into account including those for selection of a contractor or laboratory to perform the measurements should address included the following questions.

- Does the measuring laboratory have a documented quality assurance system (e.g. in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025)?
- What calibration procedures are used, how often and how extensively?
- Which methods are to be used to identify formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds?
- Are collocated measurements necessary?
- How are the uncertainties defined (e.g. in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 98-3<sup>[9]</sup>)?
- Does the laboratory participate in interlaboratory tests?

## 12 Precision and uncertainty

As is the case for other compounds, the precision and uncertainty of the determination of formaldehyde in indoor air is influenced by two parameters, the reproducibility of the analytical procedure and the variation over time of the analyte concentration in the air. It is reasonable to assume that, generally, the latter has a much higher effect than the former, although it is difficult to quantify the effect in view of the variability of source strengths and ventilation conditions.

Annex A gives some information on the magnitude of the errors relating to the analytical procedure.

## 13 Test report

The test report shall contain at least following information:

- a) the purpose of the measurements;
- b) a description of the sampling location;
- c) the time and date of the sampling;
- d) sampling conditions (temperature, pressure, relative humidity);
- e) the test method used, with reference to this part of ISO 16000 (ISO 16000-3:2011);
- f) a description of the sampling procedure;
- g) a full description of the analytical procedure;
- h) the detection limit of the analytical method;
- i) the concentrations of the compounds identified accompanied by their CAS numbers and including the calculation and calibration principles used;
- j) all operating details not specified in this part of ISO 16000, or regarded as optional, together with details of any incidents which may have influenced the test result(s);
- k) uncertainty of the reported results.

## Annex A (informative)

### Precision and uncertainty

A procedure similar to that specified in this part of ISO 16000 has been evaluated. Analytical precision should be  $\pm 10\%$  or less for analyte concentrations of  $1\ \mu\text{g/ml}$  or greater. At the  $0,5\ \mu\text{g/ml}$  level and below, precision of replicate analysis could vary up to  $25\%$  for some carbonyl compounds.

A method similar to the one specified in this part of ISO 16000 using cartridges containing  $55\ \mu\text{m}$  to  $105\ \mu\text{m}$  silica gel coated with DNPH has been evaluated through round-robin testing<sup>[11][23][24]</sup>. The results of these evaluations (see the following) may be used to estimate the performance of this method for indoor air.

These cartridges were used by two different laboratories to make over 1 500 measurements of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in ambient air for research programmes conducted in 14 cities throughout the USA<sup>[23][24]</sup>. The precision of 45 replicate HPLC injections of a stock solution of formaldehyde-DNPH derivative over a 2 month period has been shown to have a CV of  $0,85\%$ . Triplicate analysis of each of 12 identical samples of exposed DNPH cartridges provided formaldehyde measurements that agreed within  $10,9\%$  CV.

A total of 16 laboratories in the USA, Canada, and Europe participated in a round-robin test that included 250 blank DNPH cartridges, three sets of 30 cartridges spiked at three levels with DNPH derivatives, and 13 sets of cartridges exposed to diluted automobile exhaust gas<sup>[11][23][24]</sup>. These cartridges were coated by a single reference laboratory and were of the same type described in 4.2. All round-robin samples were randomly distributed to the participating laboratories. A summary of the round-robin results is shown in Table A.1.

NOTE There was no attempt to standardize the HPLC analysis in this round robin. The participants used HPLC procedures as practised in their laboratories.

The absolute percentage differences between collocated duplicate sample sets from the 1988 US research programme were  $11,8\%$  for formaldehyde ( $n = 405$ ),  $14,5\%$  for acetaldehyde ( $n = 386$ ) and  $16,7\%$  for acetone ( $n = 346$ )<sup>[23][24]</sup>. Collocated duplicate samples collected in this programme and analysed by a different laboratory showed a mean CV of  $0,07$ , a correlation coefficient of  $0,98$ , and an uncertainty of  $-0,05$  for formaldehyde<sup>[23]</sup>. Corresponding values for acetaldehyde were  $0,12$ ,  $0,95$ , and  $-0,50$ , and for acetone were  $0,15$ ,  $0,95$ , and  $-0,54$ <sup>[24]</sup>. Single laboratory analysis of spiked DNPH cartridges provided over the year showed an average uncertainty of  $+6,2\%$  for formaldehyde ( $n = 14$ ) and  $+13,8\%$  for acetaldehyde ( $n = 13$ ). Single laboratory analysis of 30 spiked DNPH cartridges during the course of this programme showed an average uncertainty of  $+1,0\%$  (range  $-49\%$  to  $+28\%$ ) for formaldehyde and  $+5,1\%$  (range  $-38\%$  to  $-39\%$ ) for acetaldehyde.

Table A.1 — Round-robin test results

Sample type	Formaldehyde	Acetaldehyde	Propionaldehyde	Benzaldehyde
Blank cartridges:				
aldehyde, µg	0,13	0,18	0,12	0,06
CV, %	46	70	47	44
<i>n</i>	33	33	23	8
Spiked cartridges <sup>a</sup> :				
% recovery (% CV)				
low	89,0 (6,02)	92,6 (13,8)	106,7 (32,6)	114,7 (36,1)
medium	97,2 (3,56)	97,8 (7,98)	100,9 (13,2)	123,5 (10,4)
high	97,5 (2,15)	102,2 (6,93)	100,1 (6,77)	120,0 (8,21)
<i>n</i>	12	13	12	14
Exhaust samples:				
aldehyde, mg	5,93	7,99	0,52	0,29
CV, %	12,6	16,5	26,4	19,4
<i>n</i>	31	32	32	17
NOTE Sixteen participating laboratories. Statistics shown after removal of outliers; CV = coefficient of variation; <i>n</i> = number of measurements.				
<sup>a</sup> Low, medium, and high spiking levels were approximately 0,5 µg, 5 µg and 10 µg of aldehyde per cartridge.				



**Annex B**  
 (informative)

**Melting points of DNPH-carbonyl derivatives**

**Table B.1**

<b>Derivative</b>	<b>Melting point<sup>a</sup> °C</b>
Acetaldehyde	152 to 153 (168,5 <sup>[25]</sup> , 168 <sup>[26]</sup> )
Acetone	125 to 127 (128 <sup>[25]</sup> , 128 <sup>[26]</sup> )
Benzaldehyde	240 to 242 (235 <sup>[26]</sup> )
Butyraldehyde	119 to 120 (122 <sup>[26]</sup> )
Crotonaldehyde	191 to 192 (190 <sup>[26]</sup> )
2,5-Dimethylbenzaldehyde	216,5 to 219,5
Formaldehyde	166 (167 <sup>[25]</sup> , 166 <sup>[26]</sup> )
Capronaldehyde	106 to 107
Isovaleraldehyde	121,5 to 123,5
Propionaldehyde	144 to 145 (155 <sup>[26]</sup> )
<i>o</i> -Tolualdehyde	193 to 194 (193 to 194 <sup>[26]</sup> )
<i>m</i> -Tolualdehyde	212 (212 <sup>[26]</sup> )
<i>p</i> -Tolualdehyde	234 to 236 (234 <sup>[26]</sup> )
Valeraldehyde	108 to 108,5 (98 <sup>[26]</sup> )

<sup>a</sup> Melting points determined for the US Environmental Protection Agency by an independent certified laboratory, Radian International, Austin, Texas. Published handbook values are given in parentheses.

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