

Results of Proficiency Test
pH and Formaldehyde
in leather
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Organised by: Institute for Interlaboratory Studies
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Author: ing. R.J. Starink
Correctors: dr. R. Visser & ing. C Nijssen-Wester
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1 INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, many consumer products are produced from leather. During the production of leather products, many different types of auxiliary agents and dyes are used to process leather. Neither in the U.S. nor in the European Union there is general legislation that limits the presence of formaldehyde in leather. However, some individual countries have restricting limits on the concentration of free formaldehyde in leather that may vary from 20 mg/kg for leather used for young children to 100 mg/kg when the leather is in contact with the skin, 150 mg/kg for shoe uppers and 400 mg/kg for leather without permanent contact with the skin. In 2006, The China Leather Industry Standard Committee Organization established the Limit of Harmful Matters in Leather: GB20400-2006. This national mandatory standard was approved by the General Administration of P.R. of China for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine and implemented in December 2007.

Since several years, the Institute for Interlaboratory Studies (iis) organises a proficiency scheme for Formaldehyde in textile. The institute decided to organize also a proficiency test for Formaldehyde and pH in Leather in 2013. It was decided to continue this scheme as part of the proficiency testing program 2015/2016.

In this interlaboratory study, 119 laboratories in 27 different countries participated. See appendix 3 for the number of participating laboratories per country.

In this report, the results of this 2015 proficiency test are presented and discussed. This report is also electronically available through the iis internet site www.iisnl.com.

2 SET UP

The Institute for Interlaboratory Studies in Spijkensisse was the organiser of this proficiency test. Sample preparation and analyses of fit for use and homogeneity were subcontracted to an ISO17025 accredited laboratory. In practice it appears to be hard to find or to prepare large amounts of suitable PT material. Therefore it was decided to use in this proficiency test only one positive sample. Sample #15209 is approx. 8 grams. The participants were requested to report rounded and unrounded results. These unrounded results were preferably used for the statistical evaluations.

2.1 QUALITY SYSTEM

The Institute for Interlaboratory Studies in Spijkensisse, the Netherlands, is accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17043:2010, (R007), since January 2000, by the Dutch Accreditation Council (Raad voor Accreditatie, see also www.RVA.nl). This ensures strict adherence to protocols for sample preparation and statistical evaluation and 100% confidentiality of participant's data. Feedback from the participants on the reported data is encouraged and customer's satisfaction is measured on regular basis by sending out questionnaires.

2.2 PROTOCOL

The protocol followed in the organisation was the one as described for proficiency testing in the report 'iis Interlaboratory Studies: Protocol for the Organisation, Statistics and Evaluation' of April 2014 (iis-protocol, version 3.3). This protocol can be downloaded from the iis website www.iisnl.com, from the FAQ page.

2.3 CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

All data presented in this report must be regarded as confidential and for use by the participating companies only. Disclosure of the information in this report is only allowed by means of the entire report. Use of the contents of this report for third parties is only allowed by written permission of the Institute for Interlaboratory Studies. Disclosure of the identity of one or more of the participating companies will be done only after receipt of a written agreement of the companies involved.

2.4 SAMPLES

A black leather sample was shredded and after homogenisation divided over 140 subsamples of approx. 8 gram and labelled sample #15209.

The homogeneity of the subsamples was checked on Formaldehyde according to ISO17226-1 on 8 stratified randomly selected samples. The homogeneity testing was performed by a subcontracted ISO17025 accredited laboratory. See the following tables for the test results.

	Formaldehyde in mg/kg
Sample #15209-1	68.5
Sample #15209-2	73.7
Sample #15209-3	84.2
Sample #15209-4	78.3
Sample #15209-5	80.7
Sample #15209-6	80.5
Sample #15209-7	81.0
Sample #15209-8	73.9

Table 1: homogeneity test results of subsamples #15209

From the above test results, the repeatabilities were calculated and compared with 0.3 times the corresponding reproducibilities in agreement with the procedure of ISO 13528 (Annex B2) or with the repeatability of the reference method, in the next table:

	Formaldehyde in mg/kg
r	14.4
Reference test	ISO17226-1:08
$0.3 \cdot R_{(\text{reference test})}$	14.2

Table 2: repeatability of subsamples #15209

The calculated repeatability for sample #15209 is in good agreement with 0.3 times the reproducibility of the reference test method. Therefore, homogeneity of all subsamples was assumed.

One sample of approx. 8 grams (labelled #15209) was sent to the participating laboratories on October 14, 2015.

2.5 ANALYSES

The participants were asked to determine on sample #15209, the content of Formaldehyde (HPLC), the content of Formaldehyde (colorimetric) and pH with the analytical procedures that are routinely used in the laboratory.

It was requested to report the analytical results using the indicated units on the report form and to use a minimum number of digits and not to round the results more. It was also requested not to report 'less than' results, which are above the detection limit, because such results cannot be used for meaningful statistical calculations.

To get comparable results a detailed report form, on which the units were prescribed as well as the required standards and a letter of instructions were prepared and made available on the data entry portal www.kmpd.co.uk/sgs-iis-cts/. A form to confirm receipt of the samples and a letter of instructions were added to the samples.

3 RESULTS

During four weeks after sample despatch, the results of the individual laboratories were gathered via the data entry portal www.kmpd.co.uk/sgs-iis-cts/. The original data are tabulated per sample in the appendix 1 of this report. The laboratories are represented by the code numbers.

Directly after the deadline, a reminder was sent to those laboratories that did not report results at that moment.

Shortly after the deadline, the available results were screened for suspect data. A result was called suspect in case the Huber Elimination Rule (a robust outlier test) found it to be an outlier. The laboratories that produced these suspect data were asked to check the results. Additional or corrected results are used for the data analysis and the original results are placed under 'Remarks' in the result tables in appendix 1.

3.1 STATISTICS

The statistical calculations were performed as described in the procedures in the report 'iis Interlaboratory Studies, Protocol for the Organisation, Statistics and Evaluation' of April 2014 (iis-protocol, version 3.3).

First, the normality of the distribution of the various data sets per determination was checked by means of the Lilliefors-test a variant of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and by the calculation of skewness and kurtosis. Evaluation of the three normality indicators in combination with the visual evaluation of the graphic Kernel density plot, lead to judgement of the normality being either 'unknown', 'OK', 'suspect' or 'not OK'. After removal of outliers, this check was repeated. Not all data sets proved to have a normal distribution, in which cases the statistical evaluation of the results should be used with due care.

In accordance to ISO 5725 (1986 and 1994) the original results per determination were submitted subsequently to Dixon, Grubbs and or Rosner General ESD outlier tests. Outliers are marked by D(0.01) for the Dixon test, by G(0.01) or DG(0.01) for the Grubbs test and by R(0.01) for the Rosner General ESD test. Stragglers are marked by D(0.05)

for the Dixon test, by $G(0.05)$ or $DG(0.05)$ for the Grubbs test and by $R(0.05)$ for the Rosner General ESD test (ref. 17). Both outliers and stragglers were not included in the calculations of averages and standard deviations.

Finally, the reproducibilities were calculated from the standard deviations by multiplying them with a factor of 2.8.

For each assigned value the uncertainty was determined in accordance with ISO13528. Subsequently the calculated uncertainty was evaluated against the respective requirement based on the target reproducibility in accordance with ISO13528. When the uncertainty passed the evaluation no remarks are made in the report. However, when the uncertainty failed the evaluation it is mentioned in the report and it will have significant consequences for the evaluation of the test results.

3.2 GRAPHICS

In order to visualise the data against the reproducibilities from literature, Gauss plots were made, using the sorted data for one determination (see appendix 1). On the Y-axis the reported analysis results are plotted. The corresponding laboratory numbers are under the X-axis.

The straight horizontal line presents the consensus value (a trimmed mean). The four striped lines, parallel to the consensus value line, are the +3s, +2s, -2s and -3s target reproducibility limits of the selected standard. Outliers and other data, which were excluded from the calculations, are represented as a cross. Accepted data are represented as a triangle. Furthermore, Kernel Density Graphs were made. This is a method for producing a smooth density approximation to a set of data that avoids some problems associated with histograms (see appendix 4; nr.14 and 15). Also a normal Gauss curve was projected over the Kernel Density Graph for reference.

3.3 Z-SCORES

To evaluate the performance of the participating laboratories the z-scores were calculated. As it was decided to evaluate the performance of the participants in this proficiency test (PT) against the literature requirements, the z-scores were calculated using a target standard deviation. This results in an evaluation independent of the spread of this interlaboratory study.

The target standard deviation was calculated from the target reproducibility (preferably taken from a standardized test method) by division with 2.8.

The z-scores were calculated in accordance with:

$$z_{(\text{target})} = (\text{result} - \text{average of PT}) / \text{target standard deviation}$$

The $z_{(\text{target})}$ scores are listed in the result tables in appendix 1.

When a laboratory did use a test method with a reproducibility that is significantly different from the reproducibility of the reference test method used in this report, it is strongly advised to recalculate the z-score, while using the reproducibility of the actual test method

used. This should be done in order to evaluate whether the reported test results are fit-for-purpose.

Absolute values for $z < 2$ are very common and absolute values for $z > 3$ are very rare. Therefore the usual interpretation of z-scores is as follows:

$|z| < 1$ good
 $1 < |z| < 2$ satisfactory
 $2 < |z| < 3$ questionable
 $3 < |z|$ unsatisfactory

4 EVALUATION

During the execution of this proficiency test no problems occurred with the delivery of the samples. Three laboratories did not report any test results and twenty other laboratories reported results after the final reporting date.

Finally, the 116 reporting laboratories did send in total 239 numerical results. Observed were 7 statistical outlying results, which is 2.9% of the numerical results. In proficiency studies, outlier percentages of 3% - 7.5% are quite normal.

A number of participants reported that the amount of material was not sufficient for testing the pH and/or to perform the test in duplicate as required.

For the determination of Formaldehyde in Leather the test methods ISO17226-1 and ISO17226-2 are considered to be the official test methods. Therefore, the target reproducibilities were estimated from the reproducibility data as mentioned in the annexes of ISO17226-1 and ISO17226-2.

Not all original data sets proved to have a normal Gaussian distribution. These are referred to as "not OK" or "suspect". The statistical evaluation of these data sets should be used with due care.

4.1 EVALUATION PER TEST

In this section, the results on sample #15209 are discussed. All statistical results reported on the leather sample are summarised in appendix 1.

Formaldehyde content (HPLC): This determination was not problematic. No statistical outliers were observed. The calculated reproducibility after rejection of suspect data is in agreement with the requirements of ISO17226-1:2008.

Formaldehyde content (colorimetric): This determination was very problematic. Four statistical outliers were observed. The calculated reproducibility after rejection of the statistical outliers is not at all in agreement with the requirements of ISO17226-2:2008.

pH: This determination was very problematic. Three statistical outliers were observed and one test result was excluded from the statistical evaluation as the reported test method is for textiles only. The calculated reproducibility after rejection of the suspect data is not at all in agreement with the requirements of ASTM D2810:2013.

Regretfully, ISO4045 does not provide precision data.

Therefore, the reproducibility of ASTM D2810 was taken to estimate the target reproducibility. This appears to be very strict. In general the reproducibility of a method is three times the repeatability. However, in ASTM D2810, the repeatability is 0.03 pH units and the reproducibility is 0.06 pH units (factor of 2 instead of 3). Also the repeatability and reproducibility are based on the values of duplicate tests. Therefore in this report the reproducibility for this test is calculated by three times the repeatability times the square root of two (0.127 pH units), assuming that the sample material was not sufficient for most participants to perform the determination in duplicate.

The majority of the laboratories reported according to either ASTM D2810 or ISO4045. Both methods were also evaluated separately. The group of 16 laboratories performing ASTM D2810 showed slightly better precision than the group of 80 laboratories performing ISO4045, however still the calculated reproducibilities of both groups after rejection of the statistical outliers are not at all in agreement with the estimated requirements of ASTM D2810:2013.

4.2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR THE GROUP OF LABORATORIES

A comparison has been made between the calculated reproducibilities estimated from ISO17226 and the reproducibilities as found for the group of participating laboratories. The number of significant results, the average results, the calculated reproducibilities (standard deviation*2.8) and the target reproducibilities (ISO17226 and ASTM D2810), are compared in the next table.

Parameter	unit	n	average	2.8 * sd	R (target)
Formaldehyde (HPLC)	mg/kg	79	108.1	69.9	67.6
Formaldehyde (colorimetric)	mg/kg	60	72.4	44.5	18.1
pH		92	4.80	0.35	0.13

Table 3: observed reproducibilities of leather sample #15209

From the above tables it can be concluded that, without statistical calculations, the group of participating laboratories has severe difficulties with the determination of formaldehyde (colorimetric) and pH, but have no problems with the HPLC analysis, when compared with the requirements of the target test methods for this sample.

See also the discussions in paragraphs 4.1 and 6.

5 COMPARISON OF THE PROFICIENCY TEST OF OCTOBER 2015 WITH PREVIOUS PTs

The uncertainty in the test result of determined Formaldehyde in leather (HPLC) in the iis15A05 PT is in line with the uncertainty of the target test method. However, the uncertainty in the test result of the colorimetric determination of Formaldehyde in leather is not in line with the uncertainty of the target test method. Some improvement is visible in comparison with the results in previous PTs (see below table).

Parameter	October 2015	October 2014	October 2013	Estimated from target test method
Formaldehyde (HPLC)	23%	30%	22%	22% (17226-1)
Formaldehyde (colorimetric)	22%	33%	25%	9% (17226-2)
pH	2.6%	3.2%	n.e.	0.9% (D2810)

Table 4: Development of relative uncertainties over the years

6 DISCUSSION

The standard test method for formaldehyde content is ISO17226. Part 1 and part 2 describe the determination of the formaldehyde content by extraction of the free formaldehyde from the leather with a detergent solution. The difference between both parts of ISO17226 is the method of quantification. Quantification of the formaldehyde is done by HPLC in part 1 and by colorimetric analysis in part 2. Therefore part 2 is not selective for formaldehyde, whereas part 1 is selective. The test results from part 2 will in general be higher than the test results from part 1. Surprisingly, this is not the case with the leather sample in this PT. In the case of dispute part 1 shall be used in preference. Looking at the reproducibility statements of both methods, it is remarkable that the reproducibility of the colorimetric method is smaller than the reproducibility of the HPLC method. Maybe the precision data for the colorimetric method were obtained with samples and/or conditions that did not influence the test (as the method describes that the test could for example be influenced by absorbances from the leather colouring).

Analytical Details Colorimetric method

In this PT several analytical details were asked on the report form for test method ISO17226-2 (colorimetric). Especially about corrections for absorbances found in reagents and acetyl acetone colouring components (see Appendix 2 for the analytical details).

In total 62 participants completed this section of the report form. Regretfully, the reported details are inconsistent and therefore it was impossible to draw significant conclusions.

Sample #15209 in comparison to formaldehyde limits

When the results of this interlaboratory study were compared to the Standard “Limit of Harmful Matters in Leather” of the Chinese Leather Industry Committee Organization: GB20400-2006 (table 5), it may be noticed that not all participants would make identical decisions about the acceptability of the leather.

	Category A Products for babies: underclothes, bedding, etc	Category B Products with Direct skin contact	Category C Products Without direct skin contact
GB20400			
Free Formaldehyde in mg/kg	<20	<75	<300

Table 5: Summary of limits from Standard GB20400:2006

When using ISO17226 part 1, all reporting laboratories would reject this sample for category A. For category B, six laboratories would accept this sample, while all other reporting laboratories would reject this sample. None of the reporting laboratories would reject this sample for category C.

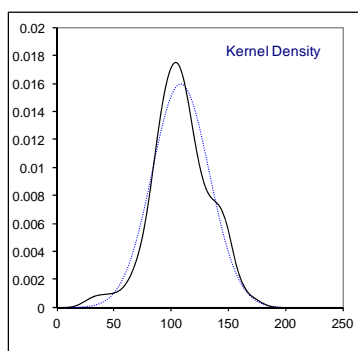
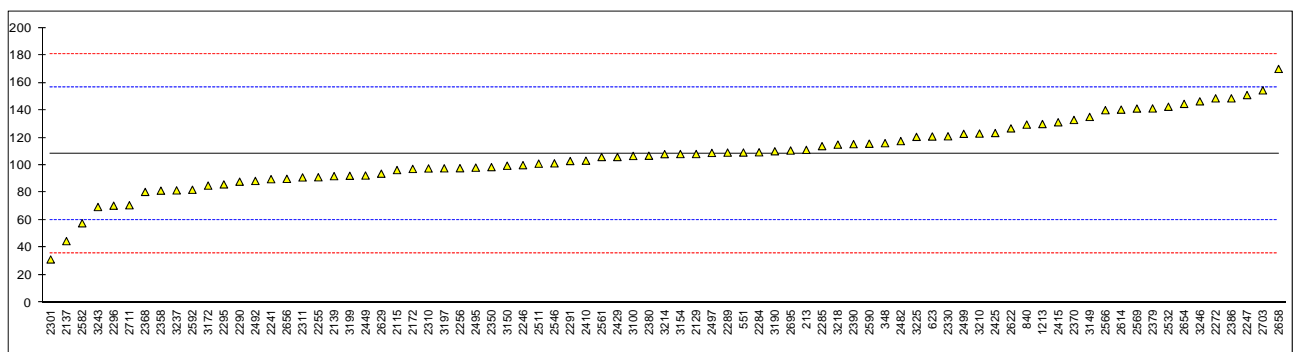
When using ISO17226 part 2, all reporting laboratories would reject this sample for category A. Twenty-four laboratories would reject this sample also for category B, while 40 other laboratories would accept this sample for category B. None of the reporting laboratories would reject this sample for category C.

APPENDIX 1**Determination of Formaldehyde content (HPLC) on sample #15209; results in mg/kg**

lab	method	value	mark	z(targ)	remarks
110		----		----	
213	ISO17226-1	111.1		0.12	
230		----		----	
348	In house	116.0		0.33	
361		----		----	
551	ISO17226-1	109.2		0.05	
622		----		----	
623	ISO17226-1	120.85		0.53	
840	ISO17226-1	129.5		0.89	
1213	ISO17226-1	129.93		0.90	
2115	ISO17226-1	96.43		-0.48	
2129	ISO17226-1	108.1		0.00	
2132		----		----	
2137	KS M ISO17226-1	44.75		-2.63	
2139	ISO17226-1	92		-0.67	
2159		----		----	
2172	ISO17226-1	97.25		-0.45	
2182		----		----	
2238		----		----	
2241	ISO17226-1	89.8		-0.76	
2246	ISO17226-1	100		-0.34	
2247	ISO17226-1	151.0	C	1.78	First reported 180.00
2255	ISO17226-1	91.2		-0.70	
2256	ISO17226-1	97.8		-0.43	
2272	ISO17226-1	148.6		1.68	
2284	ISO17226-1	109.36		0.05	
2285	ISO17226-1	113.84		0.24	
2289	ISO17226-1	109.13		0.04	
2290	ISO17226-1	87.98		-0.83	
2291	ISO17226-1	103		-0.21	
2292		----		----	
2293		----		----	
2295	ISO17226-1	86		-0.92	
2296	ISO17226-1	70.53		-1.56	
2301	ISO17226-1	31.42		-3.18	
2310	ISO17226-1	97.6		-0.44	
2311	ISO17226-1	91.1		-0.70	
2330	ISO17226-1	121.01		0.53	
2348		----		----	
2350	ISO17226-1	98.57		-0.39	
2358	ISO17226-1	81.47		-1.10	
2367		----		----	
2368	ISO17226-1	80.55		-1.14	
2370	ISO17226-1	132.9		1.03	
2373		----		----	
2379	ISO17226-1	141.25		1.37	
2380	ISO17226-1	106.84		-0.05	
2381		----		----	
2386	ISO17226-1	148.6		1.68	
2389		----		----	
2390	ISO17226-1	115.29		0.30	
2403		----		----	
2410	ISO17226-1	103.26		-0.20	
2415	ISO17226-1	131.2		0.96	
2425	ISO17226-1	123.38		0.63	
2426		----		----	
2429	ISO17226-1	105.93		-0.09	
2446		----		----	
2449	ISO17226-1	92.45		-0.65	
2453		----		----	
2459		----		----	
2460		----		----	
2462		----		----	
2477		----		----	
2482	ISO17226-1	117.50		0.39	
2488		----		----	
2492	ISO17226-1	88.54		-0.81	
2495	ISO17226-1	98.2		-0.41	
2497	ISO17226-1	108.9		0.03	
2499	GB/T 19941	122.78		0.61	
2501		----		----	
2511	ISO17226-1	101.1		-0.29	
2515		----		----	
2519		----		----	
2522		----		----	
2532	ISO17226-1	142.5		1.43	
2534		----		----	

2546	ISO17226-1	101.319	-0.28
2561	ISO17226-1	105.91	-0.09
2563		----	----
2566	ISO17226-1	140	1.32
2569	ISO17226-1	141.2	1.37
2572		----	----
2582	ISO17226-1	57.74	-2.09
2586		----	----
2590	ISO17226-1	115.61	0.31
2592	ISO17226-1	82.101	-1.08
2602		----	----
2614	ISO17226-1	140.4	1.34
2622	In house	126.75	0.77
2629	ISO17226-1	93.80	-0.59
2654	ISO17226-1	144.59	1.51
2656	ISO17226-1	90.048294	-0.75
2658	ISO17226-1	170	2.57
2682		----	----
2695	ISO17226-1	110.65	0.11
2700		----	----
2702		----	----
2703	ISO17226-1	154.4	1.92
2711	ISO17226-1	70.838	-1.54
3100	ISO17226-1	106.68	-0.06
3146		----	----
3149	ISO17226-1	135.1	1.12
3150	ISO17226-1	99.6	-0.35
3154	ISO17226-1	108.075	0.00
3172	ISO17226-1	85.145	-0.95
3176		----	----
3190	ISO17226-1	110.09	0.08
3197	ISO17226-1	97.7	-0.43
3199	ISO17226-1	92.2897	-0.66
3210	In house	123	0.62
3214	ISO17226-1	108.03	0.00
3218	ISO17226-1	114.93	0.28
3220		----	----
3225	ISO17226-1	120.60	0.52
3237	ISO17226-1	81.65	-1.10
3243	ISO17226-1	69.57	-1.60
3246	ISO17226-1	146.43	1.59
3248		----	----

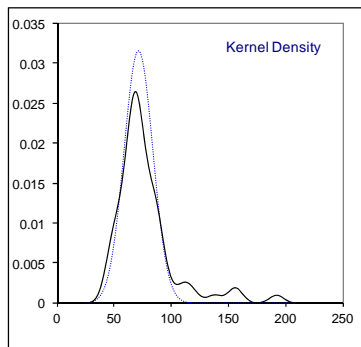
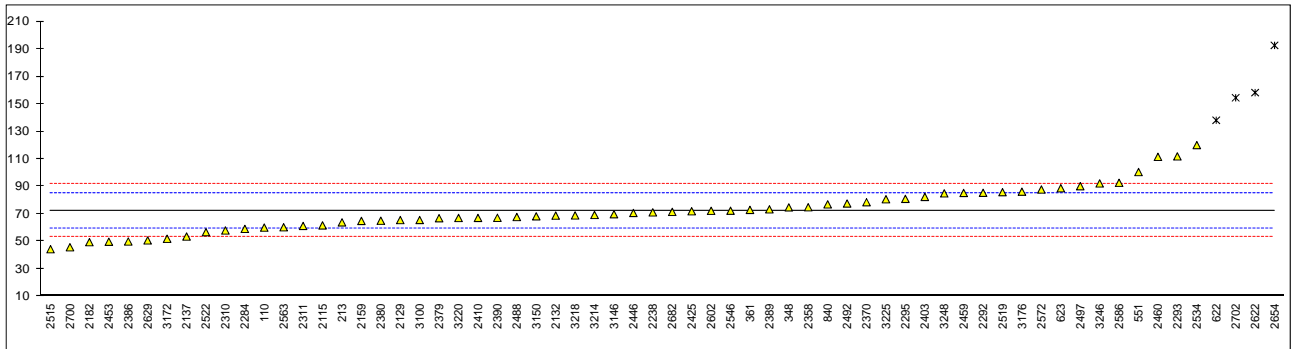
normality OK
n 79
outliers 0
mean (n) 108.100
st.dev. (n) 24.9696
R(calc.) 69.915
R(ISO17226-1:08) 67.566



Determination of Formaldehyde content (colorimetric) on sample #15209; results in mg/kg

lab	method	value	mark	z(targ)	Remarks
110	ISO17226-2	60.110	C	-1.91	First reported 218.598
213	ISO17226-2	63.9		-1.32	
230		----		----	
348	In house	74.81		0.37	
361	ISO17226-2	72.99		0.08	
551	ISO17226-2	100.5		4.34	
622	DIN 53315A	138.18	R(0.01)	10.16	
623	ISO17226-2	88.72		2.52	
840	ISO17226-2	77		0.70	
1213		----		----	
2115	ISO17226-2	61.7		-1.66	
2129	ISO17226-2	65.56		-1.06	
2132	ISO17226-2	68.82		-0.56	
2137	KS M ISO17226-2	53.60		-2.91	
2139		----		----	
2159	ISO17226-2	64.96		-1.16	
2172		----		----	
2182	ISO17226-2	49.5		-3.55	
2238	ISO17226-2	71.18		-0.20	
2241		----		----	
2246		----		----	
2247		----		----	
2255		----		----	
2256		----		----	
2272		----		----	
2284	ISO17226-2	59.15		-2.06	
2285		----		----	
2289		----		----	
2290		----		----	
2291		----		----	
2292	ISO17226-2	85.411		2.00	
2293	ISO17226-2	111.885		6.10	
2295	ISO17226-2	81		1.32	
2296		----		----	
2301		----		----	
2310	ISO17226-2	58		-2.23	
2311	ISO17226-2	61.3		-1.72	
2330		----		----	
2348		----		----	
2350		----		----	
2358	ISO17226-2	74.89		0.38	
2367		----		----	
2368		----		----	
2370	ISO17226-2	78.57		0.95	
2373		----		----	
2379	ISO17226-2	66.93		-0.85	
2380	ISO17226-2	65.09		-1.14	
2381		----		----	
2386	ISO17226-2	50		-3.47	
2389	ISO17226-2	73.4		0.15	
2390	ISO17226-2	67.21		-0.81	
2403	ISO17226-2	82.42		1.54	
2410	ISO17226-2	67.13		-0.82	
2415		----		----	
2425	ISO17226-2	72.00		-0.07	
2426		----		----	
2429		----		----	
2446	In house	70.74		-0.26	
2449		----		----	
2453	ISO17226-2	49.81		-3.50	
2459	ISO17226-2	85.311		1.99	
2460	ISO17226-2	111.57		6.05	
2462		----		----	
2477		----		----	
2482		----		----	
2488	ISO17226-2	67.803	C	-0.72	First reported 135.606.
2492	ISO17226-2	77.60		0.80	
2495		----		----	
2497	ISO17226-2	90.22		2.75	
2499		----		----	
2501		----		----	
2511		----		----	
2515	ISO17226-2	44.387		-4.34	
2519	ISO17226-2	85.88		2.08	
2522	ISO17226-2	56.77		-2.42	
2532		----		----	
2534	ISO17226-2	120.1	C	7.37	First reported 135.1
2546	ISO17226-2	72.3876		-0.01	

2561		----		----	
2563	ISO17226-2	60.35		-1.87	
2566		----		----	
2569		----		----	
2572	ISO17226-2	87.8		2.37	
2582		----		----	
2586	ISO17226-2	92.68	C	3.13	First reported 158.81.
2590		----		----	
2592		----		----	
2602	LFBG B82.02-1	72.3		-0.02	
2614		----		----	
2622	ISO17226-2	158.29	R(0.01)	13.27	
2629	ISO17226-2	50.76		-3.35	
2654	ISO17226-2	192.65	C,R(0.01)	18.59	First reported 131.87
2656		----		----	
2658		----		----	
2682	ISO17226-2	71.5		-0.15	
2695		----		----	
2700	ISO17226-2	45.81		-4.12	
2702	ISO17226-2	154.53	C,R(0.01)	12.69	First reported 143.74
2703		----		----	
2711		----		----	
3100	ISO17226-2	65.63		-1.05	
3146	ISO17226-2	69.8		-0.41	
3149		----		----	
3150	ISO17226-2	68.3		-0.64	
3154		----		----	
3172	ISO17226-2	51.97		-3.17	
3176	ISO17226-2	86.21		2.13	
3190		----		----	
3197		----	W	----	Result withdrawn, reported 129.2
3199		----		----	
3210		----		----	
3214	ISO17226-2	69.32		-0.48	
3218	ISO17226-2	68.97		-0.54	
3220	ISO17226-2	67.1		-0.83	
3225	ISO17226-2	80.72		1.28	
3237		----		----	
3243		----		----	
3246	ISO17226-2	92.24		3.06	
3248	ISO17226-2	85		1.94	
normality		OK			
n		60			
outliers		4			
mean (n)		72.446			
st.dev. (n)		15.8880			
R(calc.)		44.486			
R(ISO17226-2:08)		18.108			



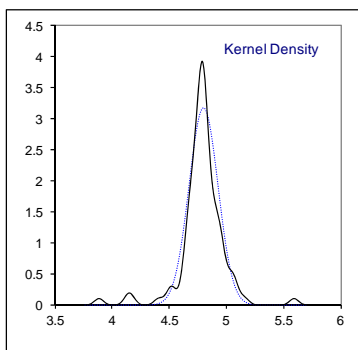
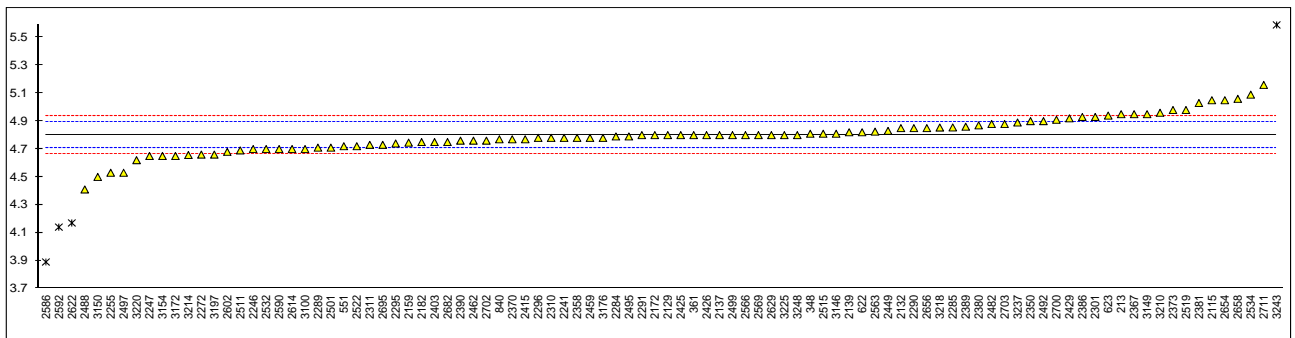
Determination of pH on sample #15209; unitless results

lab	method	value	mark	z(targ)	remarks
110		----		----	
213	ISO4045	4.95		3.28	
230		----		----	
348	ISO4045	4.81		0.20	
361	ISO4045	4.80		-0.02	
551	ISO4045	4.72		-1.78	
622	ISO4045	4.82		0.42	
623	ISO4045	4.94		3.06	
840	ISO4045	4.77		-0.68	
1213		----		----	
2115	ISO4045	5.05		5.48	
2129	ISO4045	4.8		-0.02	
2132	ASTM D2810	4.85		1.08	
2137	ISO4045	4.80		-0.02	
2139	ASTM D2810	4.82		0.42	
2159	ISO4045	4.746		-1.21	
2172	ASTM D2810	4.80		-0.02	
2182	ASTM D2810	4.75		-1.12	
2238		----		----	
2241	ISO4045	4.78		-0.46	
2246	ISO4045	4.7		-2.22	
2247	ISO4045	4.65		-3.32	
2255	ISO4045	4.53		-5.96	
2256		----		----	
2272	ISO4045	4.66		-3.10	
2284	ISO4045	4.79		-0.24	
2285	ASTM D2810	4.855		1.19	
2289	ASTM D2810	4.71		-2.00	
2290	ASTM D2810	4.85		1.08	
2291	ISO4045	4.8		-0.02	
2292		----		----	
2293		----		----	
2295	ISO4045	4.74		-1.34	
2296	ISO4045	4.78		-0.46	
2301	ASTM D2810	4.93		2.84	
2310	ISO4045	4.78		-0.46	
2311	ISO4045	4.73		-1.56	
2330		----		----	
2348		----		----	
2350	ISO4045	4.90		2.18	
2358	ISO4045	4.78		-0.46	
2367	ISO4045	4.95		3.28	Measured on undiluted sample
2368		----		----	
2370	ISO4045	4.77		-0.68	
2373	ISO4045	4.98		3.94	Measured on undiluted sample
2379		----		----	
2380	ISO4045	4.87		1.52	
2381	ISO4045	5.03		5.04	
2386	ISO4045	4.93		2.84	
2389	ISO4045	4.86		1.30	
2390	ISO4045	4.76		-0.90	
2403	ASTM D2810	4.75		-1.12	
2410		----		----	
2415	ISO4045	4.77		-0.68	
2425	ISO4045	4.8		-0.02	
2426	ISO4045	4.8		-0.02	
2429	ASTM D2810	4.92		2.62	
2446		----	W	----	Result withdrawn, reported 6.96
2449	ASTM D2810	4.83		0.64	
2453		----		----	
2459	ISO4045	4.78		-0.46	
2460		----		----	
2462	ISO4045	4.76		-0.90	
2477		----		----	
2482	ISO4045	4.88		1.74	
2488	ISO4045	4.41		-8.60	
2492	ISO4045	4.90		2.18	
2495	ISO4045	4.79		-0.24	
2497	ISO4045	4.53		-5.96	
2499	ISO4045	4.80		-0.02	
2501	ISO4045	4.71		-2.00	
2511	ISO4045	4.69		-2.44	
2515	ISO4045	4.81		0.20	
2519	ASTM D2810	4.98		3.94	
2522	ASTM D2810	4.72		-1.78	
2532	ISO4045	4.7		-2.22	
2534	ISO4045	5.09		6.36	
2546		----		----	

2561		-----	W	-----	Result withdrawn, reported 5.52
2563	ISO4045	4.825		0.53	
2566	ISO4045	4.8		-0.02	
2569	ISO4045	4.8		-0.02	
2572		-----		-----	
2582		-----		-----	
2586	ISO4045	3.89	C,R(0.01)	-20.04	First reported 4.36
2590	ISO4045	4.70	C	-2.22	First reported 3.90
2592	ISO4045	4.14	C,R(0.01)	-14.54	First reported 3.86
2602	ISO4045	4.68		-2.66	
2614	ISO4045	4.7		-2.22	
2622	ISO4045	4.17	R(0.01)	-13.88	
2629	ISO4045	4.80		-0.02	
2654	ISO4045	5.05		5.48	
2656	ISO4045	4.85		1.08	
2658	ISO4045	5.06		5.70	
2682	ISO4045	4.75		-1.12	
2695	ISO4045	4.73		-1.56	
2700	ISO4045	4.91		2.40	
2702	ISO4045	4.76		-0.90	
2703	ISO4045	4.88		1.74	
2711	ISO4045	5.16		7.90	
3100	ISO4045	4.70		-2.22	
3146	ISO4045	4.81		0.20	
3149	ISO4045	4.95		3.28	
3150	ISO4045	4.50	C	-6.62	First reported 5.91
3154	ISO4045	4.65		-3.32	
3172	ISO4045	4.65	C	-3.32	First reported 4.25
3176	ISO4045	4.78		-0.46	
3190		-----		-----	
3197	ISO4045	4.66		-3.10	
3199		-----		-----	
3210	ISO4045	4.96		3.50	
3214	ISO4045	4.657		-3.17	
3218	ASTM D2810	4.854		1.16	
3220	ISO4045	4.62		-3.98	
3225	ISO4045	4.80		-0.02	
3237	ISO4045	4.89		1.96	
3243	DIN EN ISO3071	5.590	C, ex	17.36	First reported 5.965; Result excluded, test method for textile only
3246		-----		-----	
3248	ASTM D2810	4.8		-0.02	

normality	suspect	<u>Only ASTM D2810</u>	<u>Only ISO4045 data</u>
n	92	OK	OK
outliers	3 (+1 excl)	16	77
mean (n)	4.801	4.836	4.796
st.dev. (n)	0.1262	0.0807	0.1334
R(calc.)	0.353	0.226	0.374
R(D2810:13)*	0.127	0.127	n.a.

*) Calculation of R(D2810:13) see §4.1



APPENDIX 2

Analytical Details ISO17226-2

lab	Reagents checked for absence of formaldehyde	If yes, please give absorbance of reagents	Tested for other compounds which cause a coloring with acetylacetone?	If yes, please give absorbance	Was the absorbance of the solution corrected?	If yes, please give absorbance of the sample solution before and after correction	Was the pH measured in a 10 times diluted extract solution as per 8.3 of ISO4045?	If yes, please give the pH of the undiluted extract solution below
110	YES	0.0254	YES	0.0271	YES	before 0.34, after 0.0633	NO	
213	YES?	not reported	NO?	0.0082	YES	measurement done with subtraction 0.0082 only	NO	
230	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
348	YES?	not reported	NO?	0.034 (a cell of 50 mm was used)	NO		NOT APPLICABLE	
361	YES	N/A	NO	N/A	NO	N/A	NOT APPLICABLE	N/A, the pH value is not below 4 & is not over 10
551	YES?	not reported	NO?	0.0199	YES	before 0.2875, after 0.1396	NOT APPLICABLE	
622	NO?	0.054	YES?	not reported	YES	before 0.331, after 0.277	NO	
623	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
840	YES?	not reported	NO?	0.045	YES	before 0.476, after 0.431	NO	
1213	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2115	NO	---	NO	---	NO		NO	
2129	YES	<1	YES	<1	NO		NO	
2132	YES?	not reported	NO?	0.009	YES	before 0.441, after 0.389	NO	
2137	YES, automatic correction in instrument		YES, automatic correction in instrument		YES, automatic correction in instrument		NO	
2139	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2159	YES	0.0736	YES	0.0004	YES	before 0.4231, after 0.3495	NO	N/A
2172	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2182	YES	0.3503	YES	-0.0018	YES	before 0.3503, after 0.2707	NOT APPLICABLE	NA
2238	YES	0.01	YES	0.002	NO	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
2241	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2246	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2247	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2255	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2256	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2272	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2284	YES?	not reported	NO	---	NO	---	YES	4.79
2285	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2289	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2290	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2291	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2292	YES	0.05	YES	0.011	YES	before 0.8505, after 0.4920	NOT APPLICABLE	not applicable
2293	YES	0.169	YES	0	NO		NOT APPLICABLE	
2295	YES	Dimedone absorbance autosubtracted	YES	0.025436	YES	Software calculates automatically	NO	
2296	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2301	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

lab	Reagents checked for absence of formaldehyde	If yes, please give absorbance of reagents	Tested for other compounds which cause a coloring with acetylacetone?	If yes, please give absorbance	Was the absorbance of the solution corrected?	If yes, please give absorbance of the sample solution before and after correction	Was the pH measured in a 10 times diluted extract solution as per 8.3 of ISO4045?	If yes, please give the pH of the undiluted extract solution below
2310	YES	Sample reading after DIMEDONE correction	YES	0.0037	YES	before 0.3185, after 0.3148	NOT APPLICABLE	
2311	YES	0.0269	YES	0.005	YES	before 0.344, after 0.3171	NOT APPLICABLE	
2330	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2348	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2350	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2358	YES	0.066	YES	0.001	NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
2367	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2368	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2370	NO	---	NO	---	NO	---	NO	
2373	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2379	YES	0.1375	YES	0.0264	NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
2380	NO		NO		NO	---	NO	
2381	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2386	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO		NO		NO	
2389	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2390	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO	0.001	NO	---	NO	
2403	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO	0.0157	YES	before:0.5101, after:0.4944	NOT APPLICABLE	
2410	YES	0.0047	YES	0.001	NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
2415	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2425	NO?	0.061	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	YES	before 0.2586, after 0.1976	NOT APPLICABLE	
2426	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2429	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2446	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO	0	NO	---	NO	-
2449	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2453	YES?	0	YES?	0	YES?	0	NOT APPLICABLE	-
2459	NO		NO		NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
2460	YES	0.11	YES	0.019	YES	0.1	NOT APPLICABLE	
2462	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2477	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2482	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2488	YES	0.067	YES	0.0043	NO		NO	
2492	YES	0.0248 & 0.0282	YES	0	NO		NO	
2495	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2497	YES	<0.001	YES	<0.001	NO		NOT APPLICABLE	
2499	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2501	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2511	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2515	YES	0.0331	YES	0.0106	YES	before 0.3003, after 0.2368	NOT APPLICABLE	
2519	NO		NO		NO		NO	
2522	YES	0.0002	YES	0.0002	YES	before 0.3285, after 0.3281	NOT APPLICABLE	NO
2532	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2534	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO?	0.009	NO	-	NOT APPLICABLE	-

lab	Reagents checked for absence of formaldehyde	If yes, please give absorbance of reagents	Tested for other compounds which cause a coloring with acetylacetone?	If yes, please give absorbance	Was the absorbance of the solution corrected?	If yes, please give absorbance of the sample solution before and after correction	Was the pH measured in a 10 times diluted extract solution as per 8.3 of ISO4045?	If yes, please give the pH of the undiluted extract solution below
2546	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO?	0.0001	YES	0.0364 Abs blank	NOT APPLICABLE	insufficient sample
2561	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2563	YES?	no test	NO?	0.2542	NO	no	NO	not measured
2566	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2569	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2572	YES	0	YES	0	YES		NOT APPLICABLE	
2582	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2586	YES	0.032	YES	0.018	YES	before 0.769, after 0.719	NOT APPLICABLE	4,36
2590	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2592	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2602	NO	---	NO	---	NO	---	NO	
2614	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2622	YES	0.0997	YES	0.02	YES	before 0.2917, after 0.1920	NO	
2629	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO?	0.002	NO	---	NO	
2654	YES	0.023	YES	0.002	NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
2656	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2658	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2682	NO	---	NO	---	NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
2695	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2700	YES	0.0363	YES	0.0116	YES	before 0.3108, after 0.2629	NO	
2702	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO?	0.002	NO	---	NO	
2703	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2711	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3100	YES	0.03	YES	0	YES	before 0.3730, after 0.3430	NO	
3146	NO	---	NO	---	YES	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
3149	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3150	YES	0.02	YES	0.014	YES	before: 0.160 after: 0.126	NO	didn't dilute
3154	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3172	NO	---	NO	---	NO	---	YES	
3176	YES	-0.008	YES	-0.015	NO	no	NO	no
3190	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3197	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3199	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3210	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3214	NO	---	NO	---	NO	---	NO	
3218	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO?	0.0008	NO	---	NOT APPLICABLE	
3220	NO	0.705	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	YES	0.049	NO	----
3225	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO	---	NO	---	NO	
3237	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3243	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
3246	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	NO?	0.0066	YES	before 0.2541, after 0.2535	NOT APPLICABLE	
3248	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	YES?	<i>not reported</i>	YES		NO	

APPENDIX 3

Number of participants per country

4 labs in BANGLADESH
1 lab in BRAZIL
2 labs in BULGARIA
1 lab in CAMBODIA
2 labs in FRANCE
11 labs in GERMANY
1 lab in GUATEMALA
7 labs in HONG KONG
9 labs in INDIA
3 labs in INDONESIA
13 labs in ITALY
4 labs in KOREA
1 lab in MAURITIUS
2 labs in MEXICO
2 labs in MOROCCO
22 labs in P.R. of CHINA
6 labs in PAKISTAN
1 lab in PORTUGAL
1 lab in SPAIN
1 lab in SRI LANKA
2 labs in TAIWAN R.O.C.
1 lab in THAILAND
1 lab in TUNISIA
7 labs in TURKEY
2 labs in U.S.A.
3 labs in UNITED KINGDOM
9 labs in VIETNAM

APPENDIX 4

Abbreviations:

C	= final result after checking of first reported suspect result
D(0.01)	= outlier in Dixon's outlier test
D(0.05)	= straggler in Dixon's outlier test
G(0.01)	= outlier in Grubbs' outlier test
G(0.05)	= straggler in Grubbs' outlier test
DG(0.01)	= outlier in Double Grubbs' outlier test
DG(0.05)	= straggler in Double Grubbs' outlier test
R(0.01)	= outlier in Rosner outlier test
R(0.05)	= straggler in Rosner outlier test
n.a.	= not applicable
n.d.	= not detected
W	= withdrawn

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