PD ISO/TR 21386:2019

BSI Standards Publication

Nanotechnologies — Considerations for the measurement of nano-objects and their aggregates and agglomerates (NOAA) in environmental matrices

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National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee NTI/1, Nanotechnologies.

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

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2019

ISBN 978 0 580 94699 8

ICS 07.120

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

This Published Document was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 31 March 2019.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected

PD ISO/TR 21386:2019

TECHNICAL REPORT

ISO/TR 21386

First edition
2019-03-15

Nanotechnologies — Considerations for the measurement of nano-objects and their aggregates and agglomerates (NOAA) in environmental matrices

Nanotechnologies — Considérations pour la mesure des nano-objets, et leurs agrégats et agglomérats (NOAA) dans les matrices environnementales

Reference number
ISO/TR 21386:2019(E)

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

There is an interest in determining the concentration of nano-objects and their aggregates and agglomerates (NOAA) in environmental matrices. Manufactured nanomaterials (NM) enter the environment via release from the manufacturing process and its waste streams, as well as via the use of commercial products and their recycle and disposal streams. Such measurement efforts require an understanding of the occurrence of natural materials that can interfere with the analysis or skew the results, knowledge of how the environment can interact with NM, and insights that require unique collection and analytical techniques specific to the composition of the particle. This document provides a review of published studies that report levels of NOAA in the environment and aspects of collection and sample preparation. The reader is also directed to the Further Reading section of this document for information regarding ISO guidance on sampling of air, water, and sediment, as well as a matrix of measurement techniques.

Not all manufactured NM are discussed here because there might not yet be published studies that examined them in the environment. On the other hand, collection methods and pre-analytical procedures might be similar for some or all NOAA in a given environmental matrix. Furthermore, NOAA isolated from the environment can be characterized using the same instruments and analytical techniques used for pristine NOAA. Thus, the lack of published studies does not preclude the ability to collect a specific NM from any environmental matrix and measure the NOAA present.

Although it is recognized that biota (i.e. living organisms) also can interact with NM by sequestering and/or transforming them, analysis of biota is intentionally excluded so that the scope of this Document does not become too broad. However, the impact of biota should not be overlooked. Such considerations could be part of a subsequent Technical Report.

Furthermore, when NM are used for environmental remediation, and there is interest in measuring residual levels of remediating NM after the environmental medium has been processed. It is anticipated that the considerations described here would be applicable to those investigations.

The audience for this document is expected to be scientists from the regulatory, academic, or industrial communities who wish to answer the question of how much manufactured NM is present in a specific environmental medium. The results could be used for environmental stewardship, for risk assessment, or to calibrate modelled exposure estimates, although these applications are not discussed here.

NOTE The term NM refers to the identity of the nanomaterial, whereas NOAA is a more inclusive term encompassing NM and aggregates that are the focus of the analyses described here.

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TECHNICAL REPORT **ISO/TR 21386:2019**

Nanotechnologies — Considerations for the measurement of nano-objects and their aggregates and agglomerates (NOAA) in environmental matrices

1 Scope

This document provides some considerations for the collection of environmental samples to be analysed for manufactured NOAA, considerations to distinguish manufactured NOAA from background levels of naturally occurring nanoscale particles of the same composition, and preparation procedures to aid in the quantification of manufactured NM in environmental matrices.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/TS 80004-1, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 1: Core terms*

ISO/TS 80004-2, *Nanotechnologies — Vocabulary — Part 2: Nano-objects*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/TS 80004-1 and ISO/TS 80004-2 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
environmental matrices
ambient air, surface water, sediment, soil, estuarine and marine waters and sediments

3.2
ambient air
outdoor air to which people, plants, animals or material may be exposed

Note 1 to entry: Workplace is excluded.

[SOURCE: ISO 4225:1994, 3.6]

3.3
surface water
water in overland flow and storage, such as rivers and lakes, excluding seawater

[SOURCE: ISO 14046:2014, 3.1.3]