



BSI Standards Publication

Nanotechnologies — Clay nanomaterials

Part 1: Specification of characteristics and measurement
methods for layered clay nanomaterials

National foreword

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*Partie 1: Spécification des caractéristiques et des méthodes de mesure
des nano argiles en couches*



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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.

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).

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

A list of all parts in the ISO/TS 21236 series can be found on the ISO website.

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

Layered clay nanomaterials are a subgroup of clay materials with the external dimension (thickness) or the internal structural dimension (interlayer distance) in the nanoscale. Clay itself, as most important group of layered nanostructured silicates, refers to naturally occurring or synthetic material composed primarily of fine-grained minerals, which show plasticity through a variable range of water content and will harden when fired or dried. The minerals found in clay are generally silicates of less than 2 micrometres in lateral size. Clays are very abundant at the earth's surface; they form rocks known as shales and are a major component in nearly all sedimentary rocks. The small size of the particles and their unique crystal structures give clay materials special properties, including cation exchange capabilities, plastic behaviour when wet, catalytic abilities, swelling behaviour, and low permeability^[1].

Other than the structure and composition, there are several additional factors which are important in determining the properties and applications of clays and clay nanomaterials (see [Annex A](#)). These are the mineral impurities, the presence of organic materials, the type and amount of exchangeable ions and soluble salts, and the morphological aspects^[2].

Natural and modified clays as layered structured minerals are very important industrial materials. In pristine form, clay materials are normally subnano spaced layers, structured in bundles and in exfoliated state; they are nano-objects with thickness in the nanoscale while in intercalated form they are structured nanomaterials with interlayer space in nanoscale.

Modification of clay with change in its characteristic such as its hydrophobicity, interlayer distance, exchangeable ion, and surface connected groups leads to the extension of its applications e.g. for high performance nanocomposites, effective rheological modifier, or biomedical applications. A small quantity of well dispersed intercalated or exfoliated organo-modified layered clay nanomaterials in polymeric composites (see [Annex B](#)) is proved to show superior impacts on properties such as barrier, tensile modulus, mechanical strength, and flame retardancy.

There are numerous industrial applications for layered clay nanomaterials. Purified and modified clays are used as; coatings on paper to enhance whiteness and to allow the proper absorption of ink, the life time extender of rubber in tires, in concrete, as catalysts in many industries. Moreover, they can also be used in oil purification, pharmaceuticals, ceramic industry, soil stabilization, porcelains and barriers for nuclear and chemical wastes because of their cation-exchange capabilities, low permeability, and long-term structural stability. In addition, layered clay nanomaterials are utilized in purification industries, in agricultural and food engineering applications, polymeric nanocomposites, deodorizer, insecticide carrier, pesticides carrier, drilling fluids, desiccant, detergents, plasticizer, emulsion stabilizer, food additives, cosmetic applications, environmental remediation and many other miscellaneous applications^{[1][2]}.

For such a wide range of clay nanomaterial applications, various fundamental characteristics (as shown in [Table 1](#)) play undeniable roles. These characteristics are measured and reported by the provider of the layered clay nanomaterials. In fact, the determinations of these fundamental and basic characteristics will facilitate the communication between sellers and buyers of these nanomaterials for different applications. These characteristics are considered for all industrial layered clay nanomaterial applications such as nanocomposites, paper, ink, purification, and catalysts. In addition to fundamental characteristics, presented in [Table 1](#), some other optional characteristics of layered clay nanomaterials as shown in [Table 2](#) are measured and reported subject to the agreement between sellers and buyers.

Nanotechnologies — Clay nanomaterials —

Part 1:

Specification of characteristics and measurement methods for layered clay nanomaterials

1 Scope

This document specifies characteristics to be measured of layered clay nanomaterials in powder form and chemically modified ones, and describes their relevant measurement methods.

This document does not deal with health, safety and environmental issues.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions 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

aspect ratio

ratio of the sheet length to the sheet width

[SOURCE: ISO 8336:2017,3.13]

3.2

bulk density

ratio of the mass of an untapped powder sample and its volume including the contribution of the interparticulate void volume

3.3

cation exchange capacity

amount of exchangeable cations per defined mass of clay nanomaterial sample

3.4

clay

naturally occurring or synthetically manufactured material composed primarily of fine-grained minerals, which is generally plastic at appropriate water contents and will harden when dried or fired

Note 1 to entry: Taken from Reference [3].