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Standards

Irish Standard Recommendation  
S.R. CEN/TS 16660:2015

# Characterization of waste - Leaching behaviour test - Determination of the reducing character and the reducing capacity

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S.R. CEN/TS 16660:2015

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*This document is based on:*

CEN/TS 16660:2015

*Published:*

2015-05-13

*This document was published under the authority of the NSAI and comes into effect on:*

2015-05-30

ICS number:

13.030.01

NOTE: If blank see CEN/CENELEC cover page

NSAI  
1 Swift Square,  
Northwood, Santry  
Dublin 9

T +353 1 807 3800  
F +353 1 807 3838  
E standards@nsai.ie  
W NSAI.ie

Sales:  
T +353 1 857 6730  
F +353 1 857 6729  
W standards.ie

Údarás um Chaighdeáin Náisiúnta na hÉireann

ICS 13.030.01

English Version

## Characterization of waste - Leaching behaviour test - Determination of the reducing character and the reducing capacity

Caractérisation des déchets - Essais de comportement à la  
lixiviation - Détermination des propriétés réductrices et de la  
capacité de réduction

Charakterisierung von Abfällen - Untersuchung des  
Elutionsverhaltens - Bestimmung der  
Reduktionseigenschaft und der Reduktionsfähigkeit

This Technical Specification (CEN/TS) was approved by CEN on 21 March 2015 for provisional application.

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

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## Foreword

This document (CEN/TS 16660:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 292 "Characterization of waste", the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

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

This document has been developed primarily to support the requirements for leaching behaviour testing within EU and EFTA countries.

This document was elaborated on the basis of NEN 7348:2006.

To determine the various aspects of the leaching behaviour (the leaching characteristics) of solid earthy and stony building and waste materials a series of steps should be followed, in particular sampling, sample pretreatment, characterization tests, digestion and chemical analysis of the solid substance or the eluates. An umbrella standard (EN 16457) is developed that gives general instructions. In here the relationship is given between all the standards in each step, each with a specific scope. To determine the leaching characteristics, the general instructions or the specific standards to which reference is made shall be followed with good consistency.

This Technical Specification describes a test that can be used to determine whether or not the material to be tested possesses reducing properties. If this is the case, a next test is used to quantify the reducing capacity of this material or its eluates. Based on the results of this Technical Specification, it can be established whether leaching under practical conditions can differ (considerably) from leaching under standard aerobic laboratory conditions and whether there is justification for testing leaching under low-oxygen conditions (see Annex A, [16]).

The standards that characterize the various aspects of the leaching behaviour are produced and published in phases. This means that upon the publication of this Technical Specification, reference is not yet made in all relevant standards. For the missing aspects, users of this Technical Specification will have to make their own choice of the methods to be used. Annex A gives information on the validation and materials used. Annex B gives a further explanatory note on the reducing capacity. In addition to specifications provided in EN 15002, Annex C gives further guidance on sampling, sample pretreatment and sample storage. For more information, the standards and other publications included in the bibliography that have been published in this respect can be used.

The numbered clauses are normative with the exception of the passages marked with the heading 'NOTE'; the annexes are informative.

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## Introduction

This document specifies a set of three tests to assess if a material has reducing properties and subsequently to determine the reducing capacity of that material and the reducing capacity of an eluate produced at low liquid to solid ratio. For a proper performance special attention is given to minimize contact with the atmosphere before and during testing.

For the complete characterization of the leaching behaviour of waste under specified conditions the application of other test methods is required (see EN 12920).

Anyone dealing with waste and sludge analysis should be aware of the typical risks of that kind of material irrespective of the parameter to be determined. Waste and sludge samples can contain hazardous (e.g. toxic, reactive, flammable, infectious) substances, which can be liable to biological and/or chemical reaction.

Consequently these samples should be handled with special care. Gases which can be produced by microbiological or chemical activity are potentially flammable and will pressurize sealed bottles. Bursting bottles are likely to result in hazardous shrapnel, dust and/or aerosol. National regulations should be followed with respect to all hazards associated with this method.

In the different European countries, tests have been developed to characterize and assess the constituents which can be leached from waste materials. The release of soluble constituents upon contact with water is regarded as one of the main mechanism of release which results in a potential risk to the environment during life-cycle of waste materials (disposal or re-use scenario). The intent of these tests is to identify the leaching properties of waste materials. The complexity of the leaching process makes simplifications necessary. Not all of the relevant aspects of leaching behaviour can be addressed in one single standard. This Technical Specification addresses reducing properties of materials and the consequences to the test or test conditions to be applied in performing leaching tests.

Procedures to characterize the behaviour of waste materials can generally be divided into three steps, using different tests in relation to the objective. The following test hierarchy is taken from the Landfill Directive <sup>1)</sup> and the Decision on Annex II of this Directive <sup>2)</sup> for disposal of waste.

- a) Basic characterization constitutes a full characterization of the waste by gathering all the necessary information for a safe management of the waste in the short and long term. Basic characterization may provide information on the waste (type and origin, composition, consistency, leachability, etc.), information for understanding the behaviour of waste in the considered management scenario, comparison of waste properties against limit values, and detection of key variables (critical parameters as liquid/solid (L/S) ratios, leachant composition, factors controlling leachability such as pH, redox potential, complexing capacity and physical parameters) for compliance testing and options for simplification of compliance testing. Characterization may deliver ratios between test results from basic characterization and results from simplified test procedures as well as information on a suitable frequency for compliance testing. In addition to the leaching behaviour, the composition of the waste should be known or determined by testing. The tests used for basic characterization should always include those to be used for compliance testing.
- b) Compliance testing is used to demonstrate that the sample of today fits the population of samples tested before by basic characterization and through that, is used to carry out compliance with regulatory limit values. The compliance test should therefore always be part of the basic characterization program. The compliance test focuses on key variables and leaching behaviour identified by basic characterization tests. Parts of basic characterization tests can also be used for compliance purposes.

1) Council Directive 1999/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste.

2) Council Decision 2003/33/EC of 19 December 2002.

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