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Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 15410:2011

# Solid recovered fuels - Methods for the determination of the content of major elements (Al, Ca, Fe, K, Mg, Na, P, Si, Ti)

## I.S. EN 15410:2011

*Incorporating amendments/corrigenda/National Annexes issued since publication:*

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SWIFT xxx: A rapidly developed recommendatory document based on the consensus of the participants of an NSAI workshop.

*This document replaces:*  
CEN/TS 15410:2006

*This document is based on:*  
EN 15410:2011

*Published:*  
14 September, 2011

This document was published  
under the authority of the NSAI  
and comes into effect on:  
14 September, 2011

**ICS number:**  
75.160.10

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English Version

**Solid recovered fuels - Methods for the determination of the  
content of major elements (Al, Ca, Fe, K, Mg, Na, P, Si, Ti)**

Combustibles solides de récupération - Pour la  
détermination de la teneur en éléments majeurs (Al, Ca,  
Fe, K, Mg, Na, P, Si et Ti)

Feste Sekundärbrennstoffe - Verfahren zur Bestimmung  
des Gehaltes an Hauptbestandteilen (Al, Ca, Fe, K, Mg,  
Na, P, Si, Ti)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 15 July 2011.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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## **Foreword**

This document (EN 15410:2011) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 343 “Solid Recovered Fuels”, the secretariat of which is held by SFS.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2012, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2012.

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 supersedes CEN/TS 15410:2006.

This document differs from CEN/TS 15410:2006 only editorially.

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## **Introduction**

Accurate determination of trace element content in solid recovered fuels is important for environmental and technical reasons both in the production and combustion stage. The determination of major elements such as Al, Ca, Fe, Mg, P, K, Si, Na and Ti can be helpful to predict the melting behaviour and slagging of the ash. After digestion of the solid recovered fuels using different methods, a number of analytical techniques can be used for the quantification of the trace element content. They include Inductively Coupled Plasma with optical or mass detection, Flame Atomic Spectroscopy, Graphite Furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrometry and X-ray fluorescence spectrometry. X-ray fluorescence allows the simultaneous determination of these elements after ashing of solid recovered fuel (SRF). Direct analysis of the SRF material is not possible by XRF due to the sample inhomogeneity and because suitable certified reference materials for calibration are not available.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies three methods of digestion for solid recovered fuels:

- a) microwave assisted digestion with hydrofluoric, nitric and hydrochloric acid mixture;
- b) hot water bath digestion of with hydrofluoric, nitric and hydrochloric acid mixture, after ashing of the SRFs sample;
- c) oven digestion with nitric, perchloric and hydrofluoric acid mixture.

Instrumental determination of Si, Al, K, Na, Ca, Mg, Fe, P, and Ti is performed by Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometry with optical detection or other suitable spectroscopic techniques such as Flame Atomic Spectroscopy.

The effectiveness of the digestion can be verified by qualitative X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis on the remaining residue. If necessary, an alternative digestion method (among those proposed) shall be used.

XRF can be used for the analysis of Si, Al, K, Na, Ca, Mg, Fe, P, Ti, after ashing (550 °C) of the sample: other elements can be analysed by XRF provided that the concentration levels are above the instrumental detection limits of the XRF instrumentation and after proper preliminary testing.

Method a) is recommended for general use, but the amount of the test portion can be very low in case of high concentration of organic matter. Method b) is recommended for SRFs with high organic matter concentration that can be difficult to digest with the other methods.

Method c) is recommended for SRFs samples for which the other methods leave a significant insoluble residue.

All the listed methods are suitable for the determination of Si, provided that closed containers are used for sample dissolution. XRF is highly recommended for Si, P and Ti analysis.

Alternative digestion methods can be applied if their performance is proved to be comparable with those of the methods mentioned in a) to c) (see Annex C).

## 2 Normative references

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

EN 13656, *Characterization of waste — Microwave assisted digestion with hydrofluoric (HF), nitric (HNO<sub>3</sub>) and hydrochloric (HCl) acid mixture for subsequent determination of elements*

EN 15357:2011, *Solid recovered fuels — Terminology, definitions and descriptions*

EN 15403, *Solid recovered fuels — Determination of ash content*

EN 15413, *Solid recovered fuels — Methods for the preparation of the test sample from the laboratory sample*

EN 15414-3, *Solid recovered fuels — Determination of moisture content using the oven dry method — Part 3: Moisture in general analysis sample*

EN ISO 3696:1995, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods (ISO 3696:1987)*

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