



**NSAI**  
Standards

Irish Standard  
I.S. EN 14997:2015

# Characterization of waste - Leaching behaviour test - Influence of pH on leaching with continuous pH control

## I.S. EN 14997:2015

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

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## Characterization of waste - Leaching behaviour test - Influence of pH on leaching with continuous pH control

Caractérisation des déchets - Essais de comportement à la lixiviation - Influence du pH sur la lixiviation avec contrôle continu du pH

Charakterisierung von Abfällen - Untersuchung des Elutionsverhaltens - Einfluss des pH-Wertes auf die Elution bei kontinuierlicher pH-Wert-Kontrolle

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## **EN 14997:2015 (E)**

### **Foreword**

This document (EN 14997:2015) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 292 “Characterization of waste”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2015, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2015.

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 14997:2006.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

The following significant technical changes have been implemented in this new edition of the text:

- the status of the document has been changed from a CEN/TS into an European Standard;
- performance data has been added (see Annex E).

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

## Introduction

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

This document specifies a test method for the determination of the influence of pH on the leachability of inorganic constituents from waste materials.

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 will 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.

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.

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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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- c) On-site verification tests are used as a rapid check to confirm that the waste is the same as that which has been subjected to characterization or compliance tests. On-site verification tests are not necessarily leaching tests.

The test procedure described in this document is a basic characterization test and falls in category a).

According to EN 12920 the evaluation of the release of constituents from waste materials in a certain scenario involves the performance of various tests. The test described in this European Standard is carried out by continuous automated adjustment of pH. Size reduction is performed to facilitate approaching of equilibrium.

This test is different from the "Influence of pH on leaching with initial acid/base addition" (see EN 14429) in which the pH is controlled by addition of pre-determined amounts of acid or base to reach desired end pH values. The test is aiming at approaching equilibrium at the end of the procedure.

NOTE In Annex B specific uses of both the pH dependence test with initial acid/ base addition and the pH dependence test with continuous pH control are indicated.



## 1 Scope

This European Standard specifies a method for the determination of the influence of pH on the leachability of inorganic constituents from a waste material. Approaching equilibrium as defined in this European Standard is established by continuous adjustment of the pH by addition of acid or base to reach desired pH values. This test method produces eluates, which are subsequently characterized physically and chemically.

This European Standard is a parameter specific test as specified in EN 12920. The application of this test method alone is not sufficient for the determination of the detailed leaching behaviour of a waste under specified conditions.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 14346:2006, *Characterization of waste — Calculation of dry matter by determination of dry residue or water content*

EN 14899, *Characterization of waste — Sampling of waste materials — Framework for the preparation and application of a Sampling Plan*

EN 15002, *Characterization of waste — Preparation of test portions from the laboratory sample*

EN 16192, *Characterization of waste — Analysis of eluates*

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

EN ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples (ISO 5667-3)*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### **dry residue**

$W_{dr}$

remaining mass fraction of a sample after a drying process at 105 °C

[SOURCE: EN 14346:2006]

### 3.2

#### **eluate**

solution obtained by a leaching test

### 3.3

#### **equilibrium**

condition achieved when the acid or base consumption during a checking period at the last 4 h of the test is less than 2 % of the total acid or base consumption during the entire test

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