



International  
Standard

**ISO 18134-2**

**Solid biofuels — Determination of  
moisture content —**

**Part 2:  
Simplified method**

*Biocombustibles solides — Dosage de la teneur en humidité —  
Partie 2: Méthode simplifiée*

**Third edition  
2024-03**

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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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 238, *Solid biofuels*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 335, *Solid biofuels*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 18134-2:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- title revised;
- a warning notice to avoid gain or loss of moisture during sample preparation added in [6.1](#);
- references updated;
- minor editorial corrections;
- more specific sample preparation information provided.

A list of all parts in the ISO 18134 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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

# Solid biofuels — Determination of moisture content —

## Part 2: Simplified method

### 1 Scope

This document specifies a method of determining the moisture content of a test sample of solid biofuels by drying in an oven and is used when the highest precision is not needed, e.g. for routine production control on site. The method described in this document is applicable to all solid biofuels. The moisture content of solid biofuels (as received) is always reported based on the total mass of the test sample (wet basis).

NOTE Biomass materials can contain small amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOC) which can evaporate when determining moisture content by oven drying (see References [1] and [2]). The release of such compounds is quite small relative to the overall moisture content as determined by this method and is disregarded in this document.

### 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 14780, *Solid biofuels — Sample preparation*

ISO 16559, *Solid biofuels — Vocabulary*

ISO 18135, *Solid Biofuels — Sampling*

ISO 21945, *Solid biofuels — Simplified sampling method for small scale applications*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 16559 apply.

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

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 4 Principle

The test portion of solid biofuel shall be dried at a temperature of 105 °C in air atmosphere until constant mass is achieved. The percentage moisture shall be calculated from the loss in mass of the test portion.

The difference with this procedure compared to the reference method ISO 18134-1 is that the effect due to buoyancy is neglected and only a single determination is required. The weight of a tray when still hot is less than the weight of the cold tray due to buoyancy. The magnitude of the buoyancy effect depends on the size and the weight of the tray.

## 5 Apparatus

**5.1 Drying oven**, capable of being controlled at a temperature within the range of  $(105 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}$  and suitably ventilated to allow for moisture to be released from the oven. The air velocity shall be such that the test portion particles are not dislodged from their tray.

It is important that drying ovens maintain a consistent temperature throughout the heated chamber. The temperature tolerance provided is intended for all locations within the oven.

**5.2 Dishes and trays**, of non-corrodible and heat-resistant material and of dimensions such that they will hold the total test portion in an even, thin layer. The surface of the trays shall be such that the possibility of adsorption or absorption is minimised (very clean and even surface).

**5.3 Balance**, capable of reading to the nearest 0,1 g.

## 6 Sample preparation

### 6.1 Sample reduction

Test samples for the determination of moisture content shall be obtained in accordance with ISO 18135 or ISO 21945 and shall be received in the laboratory in sealed airtight containers or bags. A test portion shall be prepared in accordance with ISO 14780 so that all particles have at least one dimension less than 31,5 mm.

**WARNING — Solid biofuels readily gain or lose moisture to the atmosphere when the sample moisture and ambient humidity are not at equilibrium. Wet samples lose moisture in a drier environment and dry samples gain moisture in a wet environment. Additionally, grinding often generates heat and air currents that result in moisture loss. If biofuel materials require handling and/or size reduction, it is important that sample preparation be conducted in such a way that moisture within the sample is preserved to the largest possible extent. To avoid loss of moisture during particle size reduction, samples with high moisture content should be pre-dried according to ISO 14780.**

### 6.2 Pre-dried test sample

During the course of its preparation, it is possible that the test sample has been pre-dried (see ISO 14780), in which case [Formula \(2\)](#) detailed in [8.3](#) shall be used to calculate the moisture content of the original sample on a wet basis.

### 6.3 Mass of test portion

The mass of the test portion shall have a minimum mass of 300 g.

**NOTE** For fine particulate solid biofuels (e.g. sawdust and fuel powder), the test portion can be reduced to a minimum of 100 g.

## 7 Procedure

### 7.1 Handling of test portion

Weigh an empty and clean drying tray to the nearest 0,1 g.

If visible condensation is seen on the inside surfaces of the package, shake the package to allow the material to reabsorb the moisture prior to emptying the package. Transfer the test portion from the package (container or bag) in which it is delivered to the empty and clean drying tray and spread the material evenly in a thin layer.

In case of samples with smaller particle sizes (e.g. sawdust, pellets, olives stones, or fine wood chips) it is recommended that the sample layer remains thin and does not exceed 1 g of material per  $1 \text{ cm}^2$  of surface area.

## 7.2 Drying and weighing of test portion

Weigh the tray with the test portion to the nearest 0,1 g before heating.

Place the tray with the test portion in the temperature-controlled oven at  $(105 \pm 2) ^\circ\text{C}$ . Heat the tray until constant mass has been achieved. Constant mass is defined as a change not exceeding 0,2 % absolute of the initial mass of the test portion during a heating period of 60 min. The drying time required will depend on particle size of the material, rate of atmospheric change in the oven and thickness of the layer of material.

Remove the tray from the oven and weigh while still hot to the nearest 0,1 g within 10 s to 15 s in order to avoid absorption of moisture. Use heat-insulating material on the balance pan to avoid direct contact with the hot tray.

NOTE The required drying time can be determined in pre-tests on similar fuel types with comparable particle size.

Do not overload the drying oven. The space above the trays and between the trays shall allow free flow of air and moisture.

To prevent unnecessary losses of volatile compounds, the drying time should generally not exceed 24 h.

## 8 Calculation

### 8.1 General

The moisture content shall be calculated on a wet basis in accordance with [Formula \(1\)](#), detailed in [8.2](#). The determination of moisture content for a pre-dried test sample is detailed in [8.3](#). The result shall be reported on a wet basis and reported in accordance with [Clause 10](#).

### 8.2 Moisture content on a wet basis

The moisture content,  $M_{\text{ar}}$ , of the test portion, as received, expressed as a percentage by mass, shall be calculated in accordance with [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$M_{\text{ar}} = \frac{(m_2 - m_3)}{(m_2 - m_1)} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where

$m_1$  mass of the empty tray used for the test portion, in g;

$m_2$  mass of the tray and test portion before drying (weight at room temperature), in g;

$m_3$  mass of the tray and test portion after drying (weight when still hot), in g;

The result shall be calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest 0,1 % for reporting.

### 8.3 Moisture content for pre-dried material

If the test sample has been pre-dried before this moisture determination (according to [6.2](#)), the moisture content,  $M_{\text{ar}}$  expressed as a percentage by mass is given by [Formula \(2\)](#):

$$M_{\text{ar}} = M_{\text{p}} + M_{\text{r}} * (1 - M_{\text{p}} / 100) \quad (2)$$

where

- $M_p$  is the moisture loss of pre-drying, expressed as a percentage by mass of the original test sample;
- $M_r$  is the residual moisture determined in the pre-dried test sample by this procedure, expressed as a percentage by mass.

## 9 Performance characteristics

Because of the varying nature of the solid biofuels covered by this document, it is not possible to give a precision statement (repeatability or reproducibility) for this test method.

## 10 Test report

The test report shall include at least the following information:

- a) identification of the laboratory performing the test;
- b) date of the test;
- c) identification of product (or sample) tested;
- d) reference to this document, i.e. ISO 18134-2:2024;
- e) result of the test on wet basis;
- f) any unusual features noted during the determination which might affect the result;
- g) any deviation from this document or operations regarded as optional.