

भूरे कोयले और लिग्नाइट की  
परीक्षण पद्धतियाँ  
भाग 7 ह्यूमिक एसिड ज्ञात करना  
( पहला पुनरीक्षण )

**Methods of Test for Brown Coals  
and Lignites**  
**Part 7 Determination of Humic Acids**  
( *First Revision* )

ICS 73.040

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भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो  
BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS  
मानक भवन, 9 बहादुर शाह ज़फर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली - 110002  
MANAK BHAVAN, 9 BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG  
NEW DELHI - 110002

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## NATIONAL FOREWORD

This Indian Standard (Part 7) (First Revision) which is identical to ISO 5073 : 2021 'Brown coals and Lignites — Determination of humic acids' issued by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) was adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards on the recommendation of the Solid Mineral Fuels and Solid Biofuels Sectional Committee and approval of the Petroleum, Coal and Related Products Division Council.

This standard was originally published in 2017, which was identical to ISO 5073 : 2013 'Brown coals and lignites — Determination of humic acids'. This revision is undertaken to align it with the latest version of ISO 5073 : 2021 'Brown coals and lignites — Determination of humic acids'.

The major changes incorporated in this revision are as follows:

- a) Referenced documents have been updated;
- b) Terms and definitions have been added;
- c) Sample has been added;
- d) Determination of humic acids in extracts has been amended;
- e) Calculation and expression of results have been amended;
- f) Precision has been amended;
- g) Test report has been amended; and
- h) Annex A has been amended.

Other parts in this series are:

- Part 1 Determination of moisture content by the direct volumetric method
- Part 2 Determination of ash
- Part 3 Determination of the yields of tar, water, gas and coke residue by low temperature distillation
- Part 4 Determination of yield of benzene-soluble extract — Semi-automatic method
- Part 5 Determination of acetone-soluble material (resinous substances) in the benzene-soluble extract
- Part 6 Determination of true relative density and apparent relative density
- Part 8 Determination of moisture content,

The text of ISO standard has been approved as suitable for publication as an Indian Standard without deviations. Certain conventions are, however, not identical to those used in Indian Standards. Attention is particularly drawn to the following:

- a) Wherever the words 'International Standard' appear referring to this standard, they should be read as 'Indian Standard'; and
- b) Comma (,) has been used as a decimal marker while in Indian Standards, the current practice is to use a point (.) as the decimal marker.

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## Introduction

In this document, humic acids are determined by the volumetric method with titration of extracts.

The test is empirical and, in order to ensure reproducible results, it is essential that the composition of the extraction solution, the temperature and the time of extraction be carefully controlled. The value 0,59, which is the average ratio of carbon content of humic acids for many brown coals and lignites, has been proved to be applicable. Another value may also be used, predetermined as described in [Annex A](#), and applicable to different countries or locations.

*Indian Standard*

BROWN COALS AND LIGNITES — DETERMINATION OF HUMIC  
ACIDS

**PART 7 DETERMINATION OF HUMIC ACIDS**

( *First Revision* )

**1 Scope**

This document specifies volumetric methods for the determination of total humic acids and free humic acid of brown coals and lignites.

**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 1171, *Solid mineral fuels — Determination of ash*

ISO 1213-2, *Solid mineral fuels — Vocabulary — Part 2: Terms relating to sampling, testing and analysis*

ISO 5068-2, *Brown coals and lignites — Determination of moisture content — Part 2: Indirect gravimetric method for moisture in the analysis sample*

ISO 13909-4, *Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 4: Coal — Preparation of test samples*

ISO 18283, *Coal and coke — Manual sampling*

**3 Terms and definitions**

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 1213-2 and the following 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 <https://www.electropedia.org/>

**3.1**

**humic acids**

group of complex organic, amorphous compounds of high relative molecular mass which occur as free acid and as metal salts (humates)

**3.2**

**total humic acids**

*humic acids* (3.1) extracted by an alkaline sodium pyrophosphate solution

**3.3**

**free humic acid**

*humic acid* (3.1) extracted by a sodium hydroxide solution

## 4 Principle

### 4.1 Total humic acids

Extraction of an analysis sample of coal is carried out with an alkaline sodium pyrophosphate solution. Carbon in the humic acid extracts is oxidized with potassium dichromate followed by titration of the excess dichromate with ammonium ferrous sulfate standard solution.

### 4.2 Free humic acid

Extraction of an analysis sample of coal is carried out with a sodium hydroxide solution. Carbon in the humic acid extracts is oxidized with potassium dichromate followed by titration of the excess dichromate with ammonium ferrous sulfate standard solution.

## 5 Reagents

### 5.1 Sodium pyrophosphate, alkaline extraction solution.

Dissolve 15 g of crystalline sodium pyrophosphate ( $\text{Na}_4\text{P}_2\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) and 7 g of sodium hydroxide in 1 l of water.

### 5.2 Sodium hydroxide solution.

Dissolve 10 g of sodium hydroxide in 1 l of water.

### 5.3 Potassium dichromate standard solution, $c(1/6 \text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7) = 0,1 \text{ mol/l}$ .

Dissolve 4,903 6 g of potassium dichromate, previously dried at 130 °C, in water. Transfer to a 1 l volumetric flask and dilute to the mark with water.

### 5.4 Potassium dichromate oxidizing solution, $c(1/6 \text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7) = 0,4 \text{ mol/l}$ .

Dissolve 20 g of potassium dichromate in 1 l of water.

### 5.5 Ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution, $c[(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{Fe}(\text{SO}_4)_2] = 0,1 \text{ mol/l}$ .

Dissolve 40 g of ammonium ferrous sulfate in water. Add 20 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid and dilute to 1 l. Store in a dark bottle.

Standardize the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution against the  $c(1/6 \text{K}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7) = 0,1 \text{ mol/l}$  potassium dichromate standard solution (5.3) for each batch of samples to be analysed.

Pipette 25 ml of potassium dichromate standard solution (5.3) into a 300 ml conical flask. Add 70 ml to 80 ml of water. Carefully add 10 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid (5.7). Allow the solution to cool to ambient temperature, then add 3 drops of 1,10-phenanthroline (5.6) indicator. Titrate with the ammonium ferrous sulfate standard solution to a red colour.

Calculate the concentration, in moles per litre, of the ammonium ferrous sulfate solution as follows:

$$c = 0,1 \times 25/V$$

where

$c$  is the amount of substance concentration, expressed in moles per litre, of the ammonium ferrous sulfate solution;

$V$  is the volume, in mL, of ammonium ferrous sulfate solution required for the titration.

### 5.6 1,10-Phenanthroline indicator.

Dissolve 1,5 g of 1,10-phenanthroline and 1 g of ammonium ferrous sulfate in 100 ml of water. Store in a dark bottle.

5.7 Sulfuric acid, concentrated,  $\rho_{20} = 1,84$  g/ml.

## 6 Apparatus

6.1 Water bath, thermostatically controlled to  $(100 \pm 1)$  °C, with four holes at least.

6.2 Balance, with a resolution of 0,1 mg.

## 7 Sample

The sample shall be the general analysis test sample, prepared to a nominal top size of 212  $\mu\text{m}$  by the preparation procedures specified in ISO 13909-4 or ISO 18283.

The sample should be brought in moisture equilibrium with the laboratory atmosphere by exposure in a thin layer on a tray. Exposure time shall be kept to a minimum.

The sample shall be thoroughly mixed immediately before analysis, preferably by mechanical means.

Duplicate determinations of moisture from the same test sample shall be conducted concurrently with the determination of the humic acids by the method specified in ISO 5068-2.

## 8 Procedure

### 8.1 Extraction of total humic acids

Transfer a  $(0,2 \pm 0,000 2)$  g mass of analysis sample into a conical flask. Add 150 ml of alkaline sodium pyrophosphate extraction solution (5.1) and mix until the sample is thoroughly wetted. Place a small funnel on the flask and heat in the water bath (6.1) with the temperature of  $(100 \pm 1)$  °C for 2 h, shaking frequently to ensure precipitation of insoluble material.

Remove the flask from the water bath. Allow to cool to room temperature and quantitatively transfer the extract and residue to a 200 ml volumetric flask. Dilute to the mark with water and shake to ensure thorough mixing. Filter with dry medium speed qualitative filter-paper. Discard the initial 10ml and collect the dry-filtered extract A of (50 to 100) ml for the determination of total humic acids.

Determine the total humic acids,  $w_{\text{HA},t}$  extracted by alkaline sodium pyrophosphate as specified in 8.3.1.

### 8.2 Extraction of free humic acid

Transfer a  $(0,2 \pm 0,000 2)$  g mass of analysis sample into a conical flask. Add 150 ml of sodium hydroxide extraction solution (5.2) and mix until the sample is thoroughly wetted. Place a small funnel on the flask and heat in the water bath (6.1) with the temperature of  $(100 \pm 1)$  °C for 2 h, shaking frequently to ensure thorough mixing.

Remove the flask from the water bath. Allow to cool to room temperature and quantitatively transfer the extract and residue to a 200 ml volumetric flask using water. Dilute to the mark with water and shake to ensure thorough mixing. Filter with dry medium speed qualitative filter-paper. Discard the initial 10 ml, and collect the dry-filtered extract B of (50 to 100) ml for the determination of free humic acids.

Determine the free humic acid,  $w_{\text{HA},f}$  extracted by sodium hydroxide as specified in [8.3.2](#).

### 8.3 Determination of humic acids in extracts

#### 8.3.1 For total humic acids

##### 8.3.1.1 Oxidation of extracts

Pipette 5 ml of dry-filtered extract A ([8.1](#)) into a 250 ml to 300 ml conical flask. Pipette 5 ml of potassium dichromate oxidizing solution ([5.4](#)) into the flask. Carefully add 15 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid ([5.7](#)). Place in the water bath ([6.1](#)) with the temperature of  $(100 \pm 1)^\circ\text{C}$  and heat for 30 min. Allow to cool to room temperature. Dilute to approximately 100 ml.

##### 8.3.1.2 Titration of extracts

Add 3 drops of 1,10-phenanthroline indicator ([5.6](#)) to the solution from [8.3.1.1](#) and titrate with the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution ([5.5](#)) to a brick red colour.

##### 8.3.1.3 Blank for total humic acids

Pipette 5 ml of sodium pyrophosphate ([5.1](#)) into a 250 ml to 300 ml conical flask, add the potassium dichromate oxidizing solution ([5.4](#)) and the concentrated sulfuric acid, heat, cool, and dilute, as specified in [8.3.1.1](#) and carry out the titration as specified in [8.3.1.2](#).

#### 8.3.2 For free humic acids

##### 8.3.2.1 Oxidation of extracts

Pipette 5 ml of dry-filtered extract B ([8.2](#)) into a 250 ml to 300 ml conical flask. Pipette 5 ml of potassium dichromate oxidizing solution ([5.4](#)) into the flask. Carefully add 15 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid ([5.7](#)). Place in the boiling water bath ([6.1](#)) with the temperature of  $(100 \pm 1)^\circ\text{C}$  and heat for 30 min. Allow to cool to room temperature. Dilute to approximately 100 ml.

##### 8.3.2.2 Titration of extracts

Add 3 drops of 1,10-phenanthroline indicator ([5.6](#)) to the solution from [8.3.2.1](#) and titrate with the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution ([5.5](#)) to a brick red colour.

##### 8.3.2.3 Blank for free humic acids

Pipette 5 ml of sodium hydroxide ([5.2](#)) into a 250 ml to 300 ml conical flask, add the potassium dichromate oxidizing solution and the concentrated sulfuric acid, heat, cool, and dilute, as specified in [8.3.2.1](#) and carry out the titration as specified in [8.3.2.2](#).

## 9 Calculation and expression of results

9.1 Calculate the total humic acid mass fraction,  $w_{\text{HA},t}$  or free humic acid mass fraction,  $w_{\text{HA},f}$  as a percent, of the sample as analysed according to [Formula \(1\)](#):

$$w_{\text{HA},t} / w_{\text{HA},f} = \frac{(V_0 - V_1) \times 0,003 \times c}{0,59 \times m} \times \frac{V_e}{V_a} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where

0,003 is the molar mass of carbon, in grams per millimole;



- $V_0$  is the volume of the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution used in the blank titre, in millilitres;
- $V_1$  is the volume of the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution used in the extract titre, in millilitres;
- $c$  is the amount of substance concentration of the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution as determined in 5.5, in moles per litre;
- $V_e$  is the volume of the extract (200 ml, as stated in 8.1 and 8.2), in millilitres;
- $V_a$  is the volume of the aliquot taken for titration (5 ml, as stated in 8.3.1.1 and 8.3.2.1), in millilitres;
- 0,59 is the average ratio of carbon mass fraction to humic acids mass fraction for brown coals and lignites (see the note below);
- $m$  is the mass of the sample taken for the test, in grams;
- 100 is conversion factor from dimensionless mass fraction to percent, in %.

NOTE For different countries or locations, the average ratio of carbon mass fraction to humic acids mass fraction of brown coals and lignites can be checked or redetermined as specified in Annex A.

## 10 Precision

### 10.1 Repeatability limit

The results of duplicate determinations, carried out in the same laboratory by the same operator with the same apparatus within a short interval of time on representative portions taken from the same analysis sample, shall not differ by more than the values of the repeatability limit, shown in Table 1.

Table 1 — Repeatability limit

Test parameter (air-dried basis) $w_{HA,t}/w_{HA,f}$ %	Maximum acceptable differences between results absolute, %
	Repeatability limit $r$
<20	1
≥20	2

## 11 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- identification of the sample tested;
- the method used by reference to this document, i.e. ISO 5073:2021;
- the date of the determination;
- the results and the method of expression used.

## Annex A (normative)

### Determination of the ratio of carbon mass fraction to humic acids mass fraction of brown coals and lignites

**A.1** Transfer about 10 g of analysis sample of brown coals and lignites into three or four conical flasks separately depending on the humic acid mass fraction of the sample (can yield 3 g or 4 g of humic acid sample). Pipette an appropriate amount of the alkaline sodium pyrophosphate extraction (5.1) into each conical flask equivalent to 150 ml per gram of the analysis sample and mix until the sample is thoroughly wetted. Place a small funnel on the flask and heat in the water bath (6.1) with the temperature of  $(100 \pm 1)^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h, shaking frequently to ensure precipitation of insoluble material.

**A.2** Remove the flask from the water bath, cool to room temperature, centrifuge the contents of flasks for 5 min. Collect the solution in the beakers. Add (1 + 1) HCl to the solution until the humic acid is precipitated fully (pH 1 to pH 3 for the solution).

**A.3** Centrifuge the suspension. Decant and discard the solution. Separate the residue through a medium-textured paper, wash the residue with water until peptization of the humic acids begins, which is indicated by the formation of a gel or colloid (pH 6 to pH 7 for the filtered solution).

**A.4** Transfer the residue to the clear beakers or vessels and dry it at  $105^\circ\text{C}$  to  $110^\circ\text{C}$ . The dried residue is the humic acid sample.

**A.5** Weigh 1 g, to the nearest 0,1 mg, of the humic acid sample (A.4) into a clear, dry dish and determine the ash according to the specification of ISO 1171. Calculate the humic acid mass fraction,  $w_{\text{HA}}$ , as a percentage of the humic acid sample following Formula (A.1):

$$w_{\text{HA}} = 100 - w_{\text{A}} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where  $w_{\text{A}}$  is the ash mass fraction of the humic acid sample, in percent.

**A.6** Weigh 0,1 g, to the nearest 0,1 mg, of the humic acid sample (see A.4) into a conical flask. Add 150 ml of the alkaline sodium pyrophosphate extraction solution (5.1). Shake to enable it to be dissolved fully. Transfer the contents of the flask to a 200 ml volumetric flask and dilute to the mark with water. Shake to ensure thorough mixing, then dry-filter through a medium-textured paper into a flask. Accurately pipette 5 ml of filtered solution into a 250 ml conical flask. Determine the carbon mass fraction of the humic acid sample as specified in 8.3.

Calculate the carbon mass fraction,  $w_{\text{C}}$ , of the humic acid sample according to Formula (A.2):

$$w_{\text{C}} = \frac{(V_0 - V_1) \times 0,003 \times c}{m} \times \frac{V_{\text{e}}}{V_{\text{a}}} \times 100 \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where

0,003 is the molar mass of carbon, in grams per millimole;

$V_0$  is the volume of the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution (5.5) used in the blank titre, in millilitres;

- $V_1$  is the volume of the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution (5.5) used in the extract titre, in millilitres;
- $c$  is the amount of substance concentration of the ammonium ferrous sulfate titration solution as determined in 5.5, in moles per litre;
- $V_e$  is the volume of the extract (200 ml, as stated in A.6), in millilitres;
- $V_a$  is the volume of the aliquot taken for titration (5 ml, as stated in A.6) in millilitres;
- $m$  is the mass of the humic acid sample taken for the test, in grams;
- 100 is conversion factor from dimensionless mass fraction to percent, in %.

**A.7** For the humic acid sample, the ratio,  $R_C$ , of carbon mass fraction to the humic acid mass fraction is calculated following Formula (A.3):

$$R_C = \frac{w_C}{w_{HA}} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where

- $w_C$  is the carbon mass fraction of the humic acid sample, in percent (A.6);
- $w_{HA}$  is the humic acid mass fraction of the humic acid sample, in percent (A.5).



(Continued from second cover)

In this adopted standard reference appears to the following International Standard for which Indian Standard also exists. The corresponding Indian Standard, which is to be substituted in its place, is listed below along with its degree of equivalence for the edition indicated:

<i>International Standard</i>	<i>Corresponding Indian Standard</i>	<i>Degree of Equivalence</i>
ISO 1171 Solid mineral fuels — Determination of ash	IS 1355 : 1984 Methods of determination of the chemical composition of ash of coal and coke ( <i>first revision</i> )	Not Equivalent
ISO 1213-2 Solid mineral fuels — Vocabulary — Part 2: Terms relating to sampling, testing and analysis	IS 3810 (Part 2) : 2003 Solid mineral fuels — Vocabulary : Part 2 Terms relating to sampling, testing and analysis ( <i>first revision</i> )	Not Equivalent
ISO 5068-2 Brown coals and lignites — Determination of moisture content — Part 2: Indirect gravimetric method for moisture in the analysis sample	IS 5062 (Part 8/Sec 2) : 2018/ISO 5068-2 : 2007 Methods of test for brown coals and lignites: Part 8 Determination of moisture content, Section 2 Indirect gravimetric method for moisture in the analysis sample	Identical
ISO 13909-4 Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling — Part 4: Coal — Preparation of test samples	IS 16143 (Part 4) : 2021/ISO 13909-4 : 2016 Hard coal and coke — Mechanical sampling: Part 4 Coal — Preparation of test samples ( <i>first revision</i> )	Identical

The Committee has reviewed the provisions of the following International Standards referred in this adopted standard and has decided that they are acceptable for use in conjunction with this standard:

<i>International Standard</i>	<i>Title</i>
ISO 18283	Coal and coke — Manual sampling

For tropical countries like India, the standard temperature and the relative humidity shall be taken as  $(27 \pm 2)$  °C and  $(65 \pm 5)$  percent, respectively.

In reporting the result of a test or analysis made in accordance with this standard, if the final value, observed or calculated, is to be rounded off, it shall be done in accordance with IS 2 : 2022 'Rules for rounding off numerical values (*second revision*)'.

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### Review of Indian Standards

Amendments are issued to standards as the need arises on the basis of comments. Standards are also reviewed periodically; a standard along with amendments is reaffirmed when such review indicates that no changes are needed; if the review indicates that changes are needed, it is taken up for revision. Users of Indian Standards should ascertain that they are in possession of the latest amendments or edition by referring to the website-[www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in) or [www.standardsbis.in](http://www.standardsbis.in).

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## BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

### Headquarters:

Manak Bhavan, 9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002

Telephones: 2323 0131, 2323 3375, 2323 9402

Website: [www.bis.gov.in](http://www.bis.gov.in)

### Regional Offices:

	Telephones
Central : 601/A, Konnectus Tower -1, 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor, DMRC Building, Bhavbhuti Marg, New Delhi 110002	{ 2323 7617
Eastern : 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Plot No 7/7 & 7/8, CP Block, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal 700091	{ 2367 0012 2320 9474
Northern : Plot No. 4-A, Sector 27-B, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh 160019	{ 265 9930
Southern : C.I.T. Campus, IV Cross Road, Taramani, Chennai 600113	{ 2254 1442 2254 1216
Western : Plot No. E-9, Road No.-8, MIDC, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400093	{ 2821 8093

**Branches :** AHMEDABAD. BENGALURU. BHOPAL. BHUBANESHWAR. CHANDIGARH. CHENNAI. COIMBATORE. DEHRADUN. DELHI. FARIDABAD. GHAZIABAD. GUWAHATI. HIMACHAL PRADESH. HUBLI. HYDERABAD. JAIPUR. JAMMU & KASHMIR. JAMSHEDPUR. KOCHI. KOLKATA. LUCKNOW. MADURAI. MUMBAI. NAGPUR. NOIDA. PANIPAT. PATNA. PUNE. RAIPUR. RAJKOT. SURAT. VISAKHAPATNAM.