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**Water quality — Determination of certain  
organochlorine insecticides,  
polychlorinated biphenyls and  
chlorobenzenes — Gas chromatographic  
method after liquid-liquid extraction**

*Qualité de l'eau — Dosage de certains insecticides organochlorés, des  
polychlorobiphényles et des chlorobenzènes — Méthode par  
chromatographie en phase gazeuse après extraction liquide-liquide*

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Reference number  
ISO 6468:1996(E)

## 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 6468 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Physical, chemical, biochemical methods*.

Annex A forms an integral part of this International Standard. Annexes B to H are for information only.

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# Water quality — Determination of certain organochlorine insecticides, polychlorinated biphenyls and chlorobenzenes — Gas chromatographic method after liquid-liquid extraction

**WARNING AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS** — This method makes use of flammable and toxic organic solvents. Observe the safety regulations in effect.

The electron-capture detector (ECD) contains radionuclides. Adequate safety precautions and legal requirements must be observed.

The halogenated hydrocarbons and chloropesticides, used for the preparation of the calibration standards are toxic. Therefore, the safety regulations pertaining must be strictly observed.

## 1 Scope

This International Standard describes a method for determining certain organochlorine insecticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and chlorobenzenes (except the mono- and dichlorobenzenes) in drinking waters, ground waters, surface waters and waste waters.

The method is applicable to samples containing up to 0,05 g/l of suspended solids. In the presence of organic matter, suspended matter and colloids, interferences are more numerous and consequently the detection limits are higher.

The method described in this International Standard only gives information on specific PCB compounds but no information on the level of total PCBs.

According to the types of compounds to be detected and the source of the water, the detection limits given in table 1 are applicable for the method described in this International Standard, with waters of low organic contents.

Given the very low concentrations normally present in the waters, the problem of contamination is extremely important. The lower the level measured, the more precautions have to be observed; below concentrations of 10 ng/l, special care is necessary.

## 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on the International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 5667-1:1980, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design on sampling programmes.*

ISO 5667-2:1991, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 2: Guidance on sampling techniques.*

## 3 Principle

Liquid-liquid extraction of organochlorine insecticides, chlorobenzenes and PCBs by an extraction solvent. After the concentration of the components with low volatility and after any clean-up steps which may be necessary, the sample extracts are analysed by gas chromatography, using an electron-capture detector.