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## Construction products: Assessment of release of dangerous substances - Determination of emissions into indoor air

Produits de construction : Évaluation de l'émission de  
substances dangereuses - Détermination des émissions  
dans l'air intérieur

Bauprodukte: Bewertung der Freisetzung von  
gefährlichen Stoffen - Bestimmung von Emissionen in  
die Innenraumluft

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 9 July 2017 and includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 24 May 2020.

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**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels**

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## European foreword

This document (EN 16516:2017+A1:2020) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 351 “Construction Products: Assessment of release of dangerous substances”, the secretariat of which is held by NEN.

**A1** Amendment 1 is a complement to EN 16516:2017. It concerns the measurement of ammonia emissions from construction products. **A1**

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2021.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document includes Amendment 1 approved by CEN on 24 May 2020.

This document supersedes **A1** EN 16516:2017 **A1**.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags **A1** **A1**.

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

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

## Introduction

This European Standard was developed under the remit of Mandate M/366 'Development of horizontal standardized assessment methods for harmonised approaches relating to dangerous substances under the Construction Products Directive (CPD)', addressing the preparation of horizontal measurement/test methods for the determination of emission of regulated dangerous substances from construction products into indoor air, soil, surface water and ground water. This mandate is a complement to the product mandates granted by the European Commission to CEN under European law for construction products. The harmonized products standards (hEN) developed in CEN under mandates from the European Commission specify construction product(s) as put on the market and address their intended conditions of use. The text of Mandate M/366 is available at [www.cen351.org](http://www.cen351.org).

Details of relevant European or national regulations are available in the "TRIS database" [1].

This European Standard has gone through a robustness validation for identifying how small changes in specific testing parameters can influence the test result. This study also delivered data on repeatability within one testing laboratory (see Annex A) and has since been expanded to include reproducibility data from further round robin tests between different laboratories (see Annex A).

The responsibility for product specification lies with the product TCs, as described in CEN/TR 16496. This determination of emission into indoor air is carried out on products under their intended conditions of use. The intended use of a construction product is generally specified in the corresponding harmonized product standard. The specific emission rates determined using this European Standard are associated with application of the product in a defined European Reference Room under specified climate (temperature and humidity) and ventilation conditions. Converting the test results into a concentration in the air of the reference room is essential because it is not possible to evaluate emissions in all possible use scenarios.

The reference room dimensions, associated product loading factors, as well as climate and ventilation conditions are selected to represent the general indoor environment (see Clause 4). Based on the huge amount of available European experience, it was possible to identify one emission scenario and one reference room and associated set of product loading factors to be used.

This European Standard specifies the horizontal reference method for testing the emission (release) of dangerous substances from construction products into indoor air. This method uses a test chamber in which emissions are generated under conditions which are kept constant during the test. These conditions are selected so that the test results can be expressed in terms of concentrations of dangerous substances in the air of the reference room (see Clause 7 and Clause 9). It should be noted that the test chamber is defined in terms of performance requirements. This responds to the requirement of Mandate M/366 for a horizontal approach while maintaining sufficient flexibility on chamber dimensions to ensure representative samples of different materials can be accommodated (see Clause 5). Clause 8 of this European Standard specifies how emitted regulated dangerous substances should be analysed.

This European Standard also addresses separately (see Clause 11 and Annex B) indirect methods that provide a result that is comparable or that correlates with the result of the reference method within their specified field of application. Such methods may be easier and/or cheaper to apply. They are in accordance with Mandate M/366 provided that their comparability or correlation to the reference test method has been demonstrated in their specific field of application.

The selection of one emission scenario and one reference room for evaluating emissions to indoor air is in general accordance with the approach taken in existing European national regulations and voluntary schemes relating to emissions from construction products into indoor air. It also accords with the horizontal requirements of Mandate M/366. The aim of this European Standard is not to develop a new testing method but to combine by normative references the use of existing standards. This approach is complemented, when necessary, with additional and/or modified requirements to ensure all

construction products are evaluated under comparable conditions as required by the horizontal concept specified in Mandate M/366.

In summary, the horizontal test method specified in this European Standard determines the specific emission rate of vapour phase organic compounds from a construction product into indoor air. This can be converted into a concentration in the air of the reference room by calculation.

This European Standard has not been evaluated for the determination of 'steady-state' concentration of formaldehyde.

NOTE A European Standard (EN 717-1) exists for the determination of formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels, in terms of 'steady-state' concentrations.

## 1 Scope

**A1** This document specifies a horizontal reference method for the determination of emissions of regulated dangerous substances from construction products into indoor air. This method is applicable to volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, very volatile aldehydes and ammonia. It is based on the use of a test chamber and subsequent analysis of the organic compounds by GC-MS, HPLC, and for ammonia, subsequent analysis by spectrophotometric methods or any equivalent analytical methods (such as ion chromatography and ammonium specific electrode). **A1**

NOTE 1 Supplemental information is given on indirect test methods (see Annex B) and on measuring very volatile organic compounds (see Annex C).

NOTE 2 This European Standard describes the overall procedure and makes use of existing standards mainly by normative reference, complemented when necessary with additional or modified normative requirements.

## 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.

CEN/TR 16220:2011, *Construction products - Assessment of release of dangerous substances - Complement to sampling*

EN 16687, *Construction products - Assessment of release of dangerous substances - Terminology*

EN ISO 13137, *Workplace atmospheres - Pumps for personal sampling of chemical and biological agents - Requirements and test methods (ISO 13137)*

EN ISO 16000-9:2006, *Indoor air - Part 9: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing - Emission test chamber method (ISO 16000-9:2006)*

EN ISO 16000-11, *Indoor air - Part 11: Determination of the emission of volatile organic compounds from building products and furnishing - Sampling, storage of samples and preparation of test specimens (ISO 16000-11)*

EN ISO 16017-1, *Indoor, ambient and workplace air - Sampling and analysis of volatile organic compounds by sorbent tube/thermal desorption/capillary gas chromatography - Part 1: Pumped sampling (ISO 16017-1)*

ISO 554, *Standard atmospheres for conditioning and/or testing — Specifications*

**A1** ISO 7150-1, *Water quality — Determination of ammonium — Part 1: Manual spectrometric method **A7***

ISO 16000-3, *Indoor air — Part 3: Determination of formaldehyde and other carbonyl compounds in indoor air and test chamber air — Active sampling method*

ISO 16000-6, *Indoor air — Part 6: Determination of volatile organic compounds in indoor and test chamber air by active sampling on Tenax TA sorbent, thermal desorption and gas chromatography using MS or MS-FID*