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**Copper, lead and zinc sulfide  
concentrates — Determination of gold  
and silver — Fire assay gravimetric  
and flame atomic absorption  
spectrometric method**

*Concentrés de sulfure de cuivre, de plomb et de zinc — Dosage de  
l'or et de l'argent — Méthode gravimétrique par essai au feu et  
spectrométrie d'absorption atomique dans la flamme*



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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 documents 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)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 183, *Copper, lead, zinc and nickel ores and concentrates*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 10378:2005), in which [6.2](#) has been technically revised and the warning notice in [A.3.1](#) has been updated.

## Introduction

This International Standard describes a method for the determination of the mass fraction of gold and silver in copper, lead, and zinc sulfide concentrates. This International Standard was prepared to enable laboratories to determine the mass fraction of gold and silver in suitable samples using instrumental methods.

# Copper, lead and zinc sulfide concentrates — Determination of gold and silver — Fire assay gravimetric and flame atomic absorption spectrometric method

**WARNING** — This International Standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. It is the responsibility of the user of this International Standard to establish appropriate health and safety practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a fire assay gravimetric and flame atomic absorption spectrometric method for the determination of the mass fraction of gold and silver in copper, lead, and zinc sulfide concentrates as follows.

### — Copper concentrates

The method is applicable to the determination of mass fractions of gold from 0,5 g/t to 300 g/t and of mass fractions of silver from 25 g/t to 1 500 g/t in copper sulfide concentrates containing mass fractions of copper from 15 % to 60 %.

### — Lead concentrates

The method is applicable to the determination of mass fractions of gold from 0,1 g/t to 25 g/t and of mass fractions of silver from 200 g/t to 3 500 g/t in lead sulfide concentrates containing mass fractions of lead from 10 % to 80 %.

### — Zinc concentrates

The method is applicable to the determination of mass fractions of gold from 0,1 g/t to 12 g/t and of mass fractions of silver from 10 g/t to 800 g/t in zinc sulfide concentrates containing mass fractions of zinc up to 60 %.

## 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.

ISO 385, *Laboratory glassware — Burettes*

ISO 648, *Laboratory glassware — Single-volume pipettes*

ISO 1042, *Laboratory glassware — One-mark volumetric flasks*

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

ISO 4787, *Laboratory glassware — Volumetric instruments — Methods for testing of capacity and for use*

ISO 9599, *Copper, lead and zinc sulfide concentrates — Determination of hygroscopic moisture in the analysis sample — Gravimetric method*