

<b>STN</b>	<b>Kvalita vody Radón 222 Časť 3: Emanometrická skúšobná metóda (ISO 13164-3: 2013)</b>	<b>STN EN ISO 13164-3</b>  75 7628
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Water quality - Radon-222 - Part 3: Test method using emanometry (ISO 13164-3:2013)

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy.  
This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

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**Water quality - Radon-222 - Part 3: Test method using  
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par émanométrie (ISO 13164-3:2013)Wasserbeschaffenheit - Radon-222 - Teil 2: Verfahren  
mittels Emanometrie (ISO 13164-3:2013)

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**EN ISO 13164-3:2020 (E)**

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## **European foreword**

The text of ISO 13164-3:2013 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 147 "Water quality" of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and has been taken over as EN ISO 13164-3:2020 by Technical Committee CEN/TC 230 "Water analysis" the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2020, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2020.

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## **Endorsement notice**

The text of ISO 13164-3:2013 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 13164-3:2020 without any modification.



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**Water quality — Radon-222 —  
Part 3:  
Test method using emanometry**

*Qualité de l'eau — Radon 222 —*

*Partie 3: Méthode d'essai par émanométrie*



Reference number  
ISO 13164-3:2013(E)

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## ISO 13164-3:2013(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.

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, [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, [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.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 147, *Water quality*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Radioactivity measurements*.

ISO 13164 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Water quality — Radon-222*:

- *Part 1: General principles*
- *Part 2: Test method using gamma-ray spectrometry*
- *Part 3: Test method using emanometry*

The following part is under preparation:

- *Part 4: Test method using two-phase liquid scintillation counting*

## Introduction

Radioactivity from several naturally occurring and human-made sources is present throughout the environment. Thus, water bodies (surface waters, groundwaters, sea waters) can contain radionuclides of natural and human-made origin.

- Natural radionuclides, including potassium-40, and those of the thorium and uranium decay series, in particular radium-226, radium-228, uranium-234, uranium-238, lead-210, can be found in water for natural reasons (e.g. desorption from the soil and wash-off by rain water) or releases from technological processes involving naturally occurring radioactive materials (e.g. the mining and processing of mineral sands or phosphate fertilizer production and use).
- Human-made radionuclides such as transuranium elements (americium, plutonium, neptunium, curium), tritium, carbon-14, strontium-90 and gamma-emitting radionuclides can also be found in natural waters as they can be authorized to be routinely released into the environment in small quantities in the effluent discharged from nuclear fuel cycle facilities and following their used in unsealed form in medicine or industry. They are also found in water due to the past fallout of the explosion in the atmosphere of nuclear devices and the accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima.

Drinking-water can thus contain radionuclides at activity concentration which could present a risk to human health. In order to assess the quality of drinking-water (including mineral waters and spring waters) with respect to its radionuclide content and to provide guidance on reducing health risks by taking measures to decrease radionuclide activity concentrations, water resources (groundwater, river, lake, sea, etc.) and drinking water are monitor for their radioactivity content as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Standard test methods for radon-222 activity concentrations in water samples are needed by test laboratories carrying out such measurements in fulfillment of national authority requirements. Laboratories may have to obtain a specific accreditation for radionuclide measurement in drinking water samples.

The radon activity concentration in surface water is very low, usually below 1 Bq l<sup>-1</sup>. In groundwater, the activity concentration varies from 1 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> up to 50 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> in sedimentary rock aquifers, from 10 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> up to 300 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> in wells, and from 100 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> up to 1 000 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> in crystalline rocks. The highest activity concentrations are normally measured in rocks with high concentration of uranium (Reference [15]).

High variations in the activity concentrations of radon in aquifers have been observed. Even in a region with relatively uniform rock types, some well water may exhibit radon activity concentration greatly higher than the average value for the same region. Significant seasonal variations have also been recorded (see [Annex A](#)).

Water may dissolve chemical substances as it passes from the soil surface to an aquifer or spring waters. The water may pass through or remain for some time in rock, some formations of which may contain a high concentration of natural radionuclides. Under favourable geochemical conditions, the water may selectively dissolve some of these natural radionuclides.

Guidance on radon in drinking-water supplies provided by WHO in 2008 suggests that controls should be implemented if the radon concentration of drinking-water for public water supplies exceeds 100 Bq l<sup>-1</sup>. It also recommended that any new, especially public, drinking-water supply using groundwater should be tested prior to being used for general consumption and that if the radon concentration exceeds 100 Bq l<sup>-1</sup>, treatment of the water source should be undertaken to reduce the radon levels to well below that level (Reference [16]).

This International Standard is one of a series dealing with the measurement of the activity concentration of radionuclides in water samples.

The origin of radon-222 and its short-lived decay products in water and other measurement methods are described generally in ISO 13164-1.



# Water quality — Radon-222 —

## Part 3: Test method using emanometry

**WARNING** — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

**IMPORTANT** — It is absolutely essential that tests conducted in accordance with this document be carried out by suitably qualified staff.

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 13164 specifies a test method for the determination of radon-222 activity concentration in a sample of water following its transfer from the aqueous phase to the air phase by degassing and its detection. It gives recommendations for rapid measurements performed within less than 1 h.

The radon-222 activity concentrations, which can be measured by this test method utilizing currently available instruments, range from 0,1 Bq l<sup>-1</sup> to several hundred thousand becquerels per litre for a 100 ml test sample.

This test method is used successfully with drinking water samples. The laboratory is responsible for ensuring the validity of this test method for water samples of untested matrices.

This test method can be applied on field sites or in the laboratory.

[Annexes A](#) and [B](#) give indications on the necessary counting conditions to meet the required sensitivity for drinking water monitoring.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 5667-1, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 1: Guidance on the design of sampling programmes and sampling techniques*

ISO 5667-3, *Water quality — Sampling — Part 3: Preservation and handling of water samples*

ISO 11929, *Determination of the characteristic limits (decision threshold, detection limit and limits of the confidence interval) for measurements of ionizing radiation — Fundamentals and application*

ISO 13164-1, *Water quality — Radon-222 — Part 1: General principles*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 80000-10, *Quantities and units — Part 10: Atomic and nuclear physics*

IEC 61577-1, *Radiation protection instrumentation — Radon and radon decay product measuring instruments — Part 1: General principles*

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IEC 61577-2, *Radiation protection instrumentation — Radon and radon decay product measuring instruments — Part 2: Specific requirements for radon measuring instruments*

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