

# SVENSK STANDARD

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### **Bevarande av kulturarv – Metoder för mätning av fukt- eller vatteninnehåll i material från fasta kulturminnen**

**Conservation of cultural heritage – Methods of measurement of moisture content, or water content, in materials constituting immovable cultural heritage**



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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 16682

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

March 2017

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English Version

## Conservation of cultural heritage - Methods of measurement of moisture content, or water content, in materials constituting immovable cultural heritage

Conservation du patrimoine culturel - Méthodes de mesurage de la teneur en humidité, ou teneur en eau, de matériaux constituant un patrimoine culturel immatériel

Erhaltung des kulturellen Erbes - Verfahren zur Bestimmung des Feuchte- bzw. Wassergehalts in Materialien des unbeweglichen kulturellen Erbes

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 25 December 2016.

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## European foreword

This document (EN 16682:2017) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 346 “Conservation of Cultural Heritage”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2017, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2017.

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.

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## Introduction

The specific field of cultural heritage is characterized by particular needs and in most cases the existing standards devised for normal materials cannot be applied. The moisture content, or the water content, in materials is of primary relevance for the preservation of cultural heritage. High content can be very damaging (e.g. salt dissolution and mobilization, fungal infestation, corrosion, swelling) as well as low content (e.g. salt crystallization, shrinkage, wood cracking) or alternating high/low content. It is therefore important to determine and control this variable to assess the risk of damage and take preventive conservation measures.

Different methods exist to measure moisture content, or water content, in modern building materials, based on different physical or chemical principles but most of them are not applicable to cultural heritage and need to be adapted to this aim.

Generally, non-destructive methods are recommended but their accuracy may be limited. In turn, the most accurate methods require sampling and can only exceptionally be used. Readings taken with non-destructive methods may not be comparable especially because they are expressed in different units. The interpretation of measurements may be obscured by a number of factors (e.g. material, salts, temperature) to which the methods are subject.

This European Standard considers and specifies characteristics, operative methodologies, pros and cons of all methods of measurements and establishes a uniform presentation of data and units. It is addressed to anyone who needs to measure or interpret readings of moisture content, or water content, in building materials (particularly masonry and wood), and in general to whoever is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of heritage buildings.

## 1 Scope

This European Standard is aimed to inform and assist users in the choice and use of the most appropriate method to obtain reliable measurements of the moisture content, or water content, in wood and masonry (including brickwork, stonework, concrete, gypsum, mortars, etc.) in the specific case of the built cultural heritage.

It provides a basic framework to take and interpret this kind of measurements on the above cultural heritage materials that have undergone weathering, pest attack, salt migration or other transformations over time.

It specifies four absolute methods (i.e. gravimetric, Karl Fischer titration, azeotropic distillation and calcium carbide); explains their characteristics, pros and cons, and gives specifications for the transformation of readings into the same unit to make measurements taken with different methods comparable.

It specifies the three principal relative methods (i.e. electrical resistance, capacitance, and relative humidity in equilibrium with the material), pointing out their characteristics and uncertainties when used in the field of cultural heritage.

In addition, it provides an informative overview of ten other relative methods, their characteristics, pros and cons.

It gives specifications for the calibration of the various methods. It also compares the above methods in relation to their accuracy, sampling requirement, sample size, laboratory or field use, and other problems encountered in the field of cultural heritage to prevent instrument misuse, reduce uncertainties and avoid reading misinterpretation.

## 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.

EN ISO 374-1, *Protective gloves against chemicals and micro-organisms - Part 1: Terminology and performance requirements*

EN 420:2003+A1:2009, *Protective gloves - General requirements and test methods*

EN 455-1:2000, *Medical gloves for single use - Part 1: Requirements and testing for freedom from holes*

EN 772-10:1999, *Methods of test for masonry units - Part 10: Determination of moisture content of calcium silicate and autoclaved aerated concrete units*

EN 837-1:1996, *Pressure gauges - Part 1: Bourdon tube pressure gauges - Dimensions, metrology, requirements and testing*

EN 1428:2012, *Bitumen and bituminous binders - Determination of water content in bituminous emulsions - Azeotropic distillation method*

EN 13183-1:2002, *Moisture content of a piece of sawn timber - Part 1: Determination by oven dry method*

EN 13183-2:2002, *Moisture content of a piece of sawn timber - Part 2: Estimation by electrical resistance method*

EN 13183-3:2005, *Moisture content of a piece of sawn timber - Part 3: Estimation by capacitance method*