

## **Methanol**

(Resolution Oeno 377/2009, Revised by OIV-OENO 480/2014)

### **1. Scope of application**

This method is applicable to the determination of methanol in wine for concentrations between 50 and 500 mg/L.

### **2. Principle**

Methanol is determined in the distillate, to which an internal standard is added, using gas chromatography with a flame ionisation detector (FID). The ethanol presented in the test sample is used as internal standard

### **3. Reagents and materials**

3.1. Type II water, according to ISO standard 3696

3.2. Ethanol: purity  $\geq 96\%$  (CAS no. 64-17-5)

3.3. Hydrogen: minimum specifications: 99.999% purity (CAS no. 1333-74-0)

3.4. Helium: minimum specifications: 99.999% purity (CAS no. 7440-59-7)

3.5. Methanol: purity  $\geq 99\%$  (CAS no. 67-56-1)

3.6. 4-Methyl-2-pentanol (internal standard): purity  $\geq 98\%$  (CAS no. 108-11-2).

Internal standard used in the validation.

*Note 1: Other internal standards can be used, such as:*

• 3-pentanol: purity  $\geq 98\%$  (CAS no. 584-02-1)

• 4-methyl-1-pentanol: purity  $\geq 98\%$  (CAS no. 626-89-1)

• Methyl nonanoate: purity  $\geq 98\%$  (CAS no. 1731-84-6)

3.7. Reference materials: these may be, for example, wines from laboratory proficiency tests.

3.8. Preparation of working solutions (by way of example):

*3.8.1. Approximately 10% v/v aqueous-alcoholic mixture*

This mixture should be as close as possible to the alcohol content of the wine to be analysed. Pour 100 mL of ethanol (3.2) into a 1 L calibrated flask (4.2), make up to volume with demineralised water (3.1) and mix.

**3.8.2. 10 g/L Internal standard solution**

Using an analytical balance (4.1), weigh approximately 1 g of internal standard (3.6) into a 100 mL calibrated flask (4.3) that contains around 60 mL of 10% ethanol solution (3.8.1), so as to minimise evaporation of the internal standard. Make up to volume with the ethanol solution (3.8.1) and mix.

**3.8.3. 1 g/L Internal standard solution**

Add 10 mL of the 10 g/L internal standard solution (3.8.2) using a pipette (4.8) and make up to 100 mL (4.3) using the 10% v/v hydroalcoholic mixture (3.8.1).

*3.8.4. 5 g/L Methanol stock solution*

Using an analytical balance (4.1), weigh approximately 500 mg of methanol (3.5) into a 100 mL calibrated flask (4.3) that contains about 60 mL of 10% ethanol solution (3.8.1), so as to minimise evaporation of the methanol. Make up to volume with the ethanol solution (3.8.1) and mix.

*3.8.5. Working calibration solutions*

By way of example, a method for plotting a calibration curve is outlined below.

Each solution should be prepared with the 10% aqueous-alcoholic mixture (3.8.1).

*3.8.5.1. 500 mg/L Methanol standard solution*

Add 10 mL of the 5 g/L stock solution (3.8.4) to a 100 mL calibrated flask (4.3) using a pipette (4.8) and make up to volume with the 10% v/v ethanol solution (3.8.1).

*3.8.5.1.1. 250 mg/L Methanol standard solution*

Add 10 mL of the 500 mg/L methanol solution (3.8.5.1) to a 20 mL calibrated flask (4.5) using a pipette (4.8) and make up to volume with the 10% v/v ethanol solution (3.8.1).

*3.8.5.1.2. 200 mg/L Methanol standard solution*

Add 20 mL of the 500 mg/L methanol solution (3.8.5.1) to a 50 mL calibrated flask (4.4) using a pipette (4.7) and make up to volume with the 10% v/v ethanol solution (3.8.1).

*3.8.5.1.3. 150 mg/L Methanol standard solution*

Add 6 mL of the 500 mg/L methanol solution (3.8.5.1) to a 20 mL calibrated flask (4.5) using a pipette (4.9) and make up to volume with the 10% v/v ethanol solution (3.8.1).

*3.8.5.1.4. 100 mg/L Methanol standard solution*

Add 4 mL of the 500 mg/L methanol solution (3.8.5.1) to a 20 mL calibrated flask (4.5) using a pipette (4.10) and make up to volume with the 10% v/v ethanol solution (3.8.1).

*3.8.5.1.5. 50 mg/L Methanol standard solution*

Add 2 mL of the 500 mg/L methanol solution (3.8.5.1) to a 20 mL calibrated flask (4.5) using a pipette (4.11) and make up to volume with the 10% v/v ethanol solution (3.8.1).

#### **4. Apparatus**

- 4.1. Analytical balance (1 mg precision)
- 4.2. 1 L Class A calibrated flasks
- 4.3. 100 mL Class A calibrated flasks
- 4.4. 50 mL Class A calibrated flasks
- 4.5. 20 mL Class A calibrated flasks
- 4.6. 10 mL Class A calibrated flasks
- 4.7. 20 mL Class A pipettes with two marks
- 4.8. 10 mL Class A pipettes with two marks
- 4.9. 6 mL Class A pipettes with two marks
- 4.10. 4 mL Class A pipettes with two marks
- 4.11. 2 mL Class A pipettes with two marks
- 4.12. 1 mL Class A pipettes with two marks or 1 mL micropipettes
- 4.13. Temperature-programmable gas chromatograph with a flame ionisation detector and a data processing system capable of calculating areas or measuring peak heights
- 4.14. Fused silica capillary column coated with a Carbowax 20M-type polar stationary phase (for example):
  - Chrompack CP-wax 57 CB, 50 m x 0.32 mm x 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$
  - DB-WAX 52, 30 m x 25  $\mu\text{m}$  x 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$

#### **5. Sample preparation**

Sparkling and/or young wines must be pre-degassed, for example, by mixing 200 mL of wine in a 1 L flask. Subsequently, the samples are distilled according to the method for determining alcoholic strength by volume (OIV-MA-AS312-01A). The distillation can be carried out without adding calcium hydroxide in this case.

**5.1. Addition of internal standard (by way of example)**

Pour 10 mL of distillate into a 10 mL calibrated flask (4.6), add 1 mL (4.12) of internal standard solution (3.8.3) and mix.

**6. Procedure**

The calibration curve standards are treated in the same way as the samples (point 5.1).

It is recommended that the aqueous-alcoholic mixture (3.8.1) is injected at the start of the sequence in order to verify that it does not contain methanol.

*6.1. Operating conditions (as a guide):*

Carrier gas: helium or hydrogen

Carrier gas flow: 7 mL/min

Injection: split (ratio: 7:50)

Injection volume: 1 or 2  $\mu$ L

Injector temperature: 200-260  $^{\circ}$ C

Detector temperature: 220-300  $^{\circ}$ C

Temperature programme: from 35  $^{\circ}$ C (for 2 minutes) to 170  $^{\circ}$ C, at 7.5  $^{\circ}$ C/min

**7. Calculations**

Calculate the concentration of methanol ( $C_i$ ), using the following equation:

$$C_i \text{ (mg / l AA)} = RRF_i^{Eth} \cdot \frac{A_i}{A_{Eth}} \cdot \rho_{Eth} \text{ (mg/l)},$$

where  $A_i$  and  $A_{Eth}$  – sre detector responses of methanol and ethanol in the analyzed sample, respectively,  $\rho_{Eth}$  is the density of ethanol,  $\rho_{Eth} = 789270$  mg/l ;

$$C_i \text{ (mg / l AA)} = RRF_i^{Eth} \cdot \frac{A_i}{A_{Eth}} \cdot \rho_{Eth} \text{ (mg/l)},$$

where  $A_i^{calibr}$  and  $A_{Eth}^{calibr}$  – sre detector responses of methanol and ethanol in the calibration solution, respectively,

$C_i^{calibr}$  (mg / l AA) is mass concentration of methanol in calibration solution.

### **8. Expression of the results**

The concentration of methanol may be expressed in mg/L or in mg/100 mL absolute alcohol; in the latter case, the alcohol content by volume of the wine should be determined.

*Note 2:* mg/100 mL absolute alcohol = mg/L x 10/alcohol content by volume

### **9. Precision**

The data from the international interlaboratory test is outlined in Annex A.

### **10. Quality control**

Internal quality control may be carried out using certified reference materials or wines whose characteristics have been determined from a consensus (3.7). These should be prepared as for the samples (point 5). Participation in proficiency tests is recommended.

### **11. Report of the results**

The results are expressed to the nearest whole number (in accordance with the uncertainty).

### **12. Bibliography**

Compendium of international methods of wine and must analysis. Method OIV-MA-AS312-01A (Alcoholic strength).

**Annex A**

**Statistical results of the interlaboratory test**

**Design of validation study**

The validation study was conducted with 10 samples: 2 white wines, one dry and one sweet, 2 red wines, one of which was oaked, and 1 fortified wine (Port), including blind duplicates, according to OIV recommendations. The approximate concentration of methanol is shown in the following table.

Sample	White wine Dry	White wine Sweet	Red wine	Red wine oaked	Fortified wine port
Methanol (mg/L)	50	150*	270	400*	120

(\*) In this particular indicated case, methanol was added to the wine to cover a greater range of concentrations. The wine was then mixed, stabilised and bottled.

**Participating laboratories:**

Samples were sent to 17 laboratories in 9 different countries.

Laboratorios Agroalimentarios, Madrid (Spain)

Estación de Viticultura y Enología de Galicia, EVEGA (Spain)

Estació de Viticultura i Enologia de Vilafranca del Penedès, (Spain)

Estación Enológica de Haro, La Rioja (Spain)

Estación de Viticultura y Enología de Galicia (Spain)

Lab. Bordeaux, Service Commun des Lab., Pessac (France)

Laboratoire d'Ile-de-France, Paris (France)

Laboratoires Inter Rhône (France)

Comité Interprof. du Vin de Champagne (CIVC) (France)

Bfr-Bundesinst. f. Risikobewertung (Germany)

Landesuntersuchungsamt Mainz (Germany)

Instituto Nacional de Vitivinicultura, Mendoza (Argentina)

**COMPENDIUM OF INTERNATIONAL METHODS OF ANALYSIS-OIV**  
**Methanol**

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ALKO Inc., Alcohol Control Lab. (ACL) (Finland)

Instituto dos Vinhos do Douro e do Porto (Portugal)

Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority (CAFIA), Brno (Czech Republic) CZ

National Food Safety Office, Directorate of Oenology and Alcoholic Beverages (NÉBIH BAI),  
Budapest (Hungary)

Lehr- und Forschungszentrum, Klosterneuburg (Austria)



## Collaborative study on methanol

	Dry white		Sweet white		Red		Oaked red		Port	
Laboratory code	A	G	B	H	C	I	D	J	E	K
A	39.99	38.13	127.42	136.25	144.80	145.71	496.53	513.00	192.13	219.39
B	41.20	40.90	157.60	160.50	150.40	146.90	484.90	477.80	222.40	219.60
C	36.80	35.60	133.50	129.20	119.10	134.10	454.10	478.40	197.00	174.80
D	36.00	39.60	<b>177.40</b>	<b>145.50</b>	160.80	138.00	<b>302.00</b>	<b>494.50</b>	216.10	248.50
E	<b>68.00</b>	<b>70.00</b>	163.00	169.00	178.00	177.00	503.00	495.50	225.00	227.00
F	37.00	37.10	148.30	148.20	143.40	142.40	484.10	474.00	206.30	206.90
G	41.40	42.30	152.60	152.40	149.70	150.50	489.60	491.10	216.60	217.20
H	36.80	32.40	140.80	129.10	128.00	137.70	440.60	429.30	187.50	192.80
I	42.90	43.30	153.50	155.50	139.70	147.40	468.30	456.10	225.30	225.60
J	40.90	40.60	155.50	154.60	148.50	149.10	496.40	499.80	217.10	217.00
K	39.30	36.20	<b>103.10</b>	<b>143.10</b>	131.90	115.90	<b>437.90</b>	<b>334.00</b>	156.10	172.60
L	35.00	39.00	164.00	167.00	157.00	160.00	492.00	508.00	249.00	220.00
M	43.60	43.40	157.30	154.90	155.50	158.90	506.80	496.10	217.70	219.50
N	34.20	33.60	126.50	125.70	125.90	133.60	429.10	429.00	192.10	188.90
O	34.00	35.70	149.00	154.80	144.20	141.80	482.80	473.60	210.40	218.10
P	44.70	43.70	151.60	146.90	140.70	147.60	451.20	472.80	205.40	205.80
Q	40.70	38.80	153.00	149.80	158.20	153.40	498.20	497.50	225.50	217.20

Note: The values in bold correspond to values rejected according to the Cochran (variance outliers) and Grubbs (mean outliers) tests.

Indicators	Dry white	Sweet white	Red	Oaked red	Port
Number of accepted laboratories	16	15	17	15	17
Number of repetitions	2	2	2	2	2
Minimum	32.40	125.70	115.90	429.00	156.10
Maximum	44.70	169.00	178.00	513.00	249.00
Repeatability variance $s_r^2$	2.2466	12.1330	39.0164	76.3567	105.3390
Intergroup variance $s_r^2$	9.61893	146.39249	151.90249	535.61827	292.14282
Reproducibility variance $s_r^2$	11.8655	158.5254	190.9189	611.9750	397.4819
Overall mean	38.90	148.92	145.76	478.97	210.37
Repeatability standard deviation	1.50	3.48	6.25	8.74	10.26
r Limit	4.242	9.858	17.677	24.729	29.046
Repeatability CV	3.9	2.3	4.3	1.8	4.9
Reproducibility standard deviation	3.44	12.59	13.82	24.74	19.94
R Limit	9.748	35.632	39.103	70.009	56.422
Reproducibility CV	8.9	8.5	9.5	5.2	9.5
Horwitz RSD	6.09	4.97	4.99	4.17	4.72
Horrat r	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.4	1.0
Horwitz RSD	9.22	7.53	7.56	6.32	7.15
Horrat R	1.0	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	0.8	<b>1.3</b>

According to the Horrat values, the repeatability and reproducibility of the method are acceptable

**Z-scores obtained by the participants: of the 85 Z-scores, 3 are unsatisfactory and 4 are questionable**

	Z-score	Z-score	Z-score	Z-score	Z-score
Laboratory code	Dry white wine	Sweet white wine	Red wine	Oaked red wine	Port
A	0.05	-1.36	-0.04	1.04	-0.23
B	0.62	0.80	0.21	0.10	0.53
C	-0.78	-1.40	-1.39	-0.51	-1.23
D	-0.32	1.00	0.26	<b>-3.26</b>	1.10
E	<b>8.74</b>	1.36	<b>2.30</b>	0.81	0.78
F	-0.54	-0.05	-0.21	0.00	-0.19
G	0.86	0.28	0.31	0.46	0.33
H	-1.25	-1.11	-0.93	-1.78	-1.01
I	1.22	0.44	-0.16	-0.68	0.76
J	0.54	0.49	0.22	0.77	0.34
K	-0.33	<b>-2.05</b>	-1.58	<b>-3.76</b>	<b>-2.31</b>
L	-0.55	1.32	0.92	0.85	1.21
M	1.34	0.57	0.83	0.91	0.41
N	-1.45	-1.81	-1.16	<b>-2.02</b>	-1.00
O	-1.18	0.24	-0.20	-0.03	0.19
P	1.54	0.03	-0.12	-0.69	-0.24
Q	0.25	0.20	0.73	0.76	0.55