

How to Designate ISO 8573 Purity Classes

The designation of ISO 8573 Purity Classes for compressed air includes the specification name and edition date, Purity Class Number(s) in brackets, in the following order, and separated by a colon:

ISO 8573-1:2010 [Particles : Water : Oil]*

where

- P** is the Purity Class for Particles (Classes 0 - 7, X)
- W** is the Purity Class for Water (Classes 0 - 9, X)
- O** is the Purity Class for Oil (Classes 0 - 4, X)

**ISO 8573-1 actually uses the letters ABC but for this purpose PWO makes it easier to remember the correct order.*

Example: ISO 8573-1:2010 [2:2:1] – indicates Class 2 for particles, Class 2 for water, and Class 1 for oil.

Unspecified Designation: When a class for any particular contaminant P, W, O is not specified, the designation shall be replaced by a hyphen.

Example: ISO 8573-1:2010 [2:-:1] – indicates that water is not classified.

Class Zero: The use of the term Class 0 is frequently misunderstood and misused. When specifying air quality that meets Class 0, the limit **MUST** be included in the designation **AND** it must be more stringent than Class 1. Class 0 does not mean that there are zero contaminants.

Example: ISO 8573-1:2010 [1:2:0 (0.001)] – indicates Class 1 for particles, Class 2 for water, and Class 0 for oil with a limit of 0.001 mg/m³.

When requesting filtration or analysis to Class Zero, always provide a limit that is more stringent than Class 1.

For additional information, contact Trace Analytics at CDATest@AirCheckLab.com or 512-263-0000 x4.