



ARBEITSBERICHT NAB 23-22

Definition of Reference Corrosion Rates for
Performance and Safety Assessments

December 2023

**Nagra | National Cooperative for the
Disposal of Radioactive Waste**

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Performance and Safety Assessments

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KEYWORDS

Metals, corrosion rates, gas generation

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Nagra Arbeitsberichte ("Working Reports") present the results of work in progress that have not necessarily been subject to a comprehensive review. They are intended to provide rapid dissemination of current information..

Abstract

This report defines the reference corrosion rates to be used in performance and safety assessments of a deep geological repository in Opalinus Clay. The corrosion rates can be used for: (i) the estimation of gas generation rates; (ii) the calculation of release rates of radionuclides from activated metals; (iii) the prediction of the rate of anaerobic corrosion of carbon steel canisters for spent fuel and high-level waste. The report is based on a critical review of reports and papers available in the open literature and of the results of corrosion and gas generation studies performed as part of the Nagra programme.

Additional data have become available since the last such review in 2014, resulting in an update of the reference rates. Improvements in the mechanistic understanding of the corrosion processes involved, as well as the availability of more sensitive measurement techniques and longer accumulated exposure periods for continuing experiments, have resulted in improved definitions of the corrosion rates. Reference corrosion rates are now defined for various classes of alloy (iron and carbon steel, stainless steel and Ni-based alloys, aluminium, lead, Zircaloy, copper, zinc, and magnesium) in both alkaline and near-neutral pH conditions, as well as for carbon steel in contact with compacted bentonite.

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List of Acronyms

ACW	Artificial Cement Water
API-MS	Atmospheric Pressure Ionisation coupled with Mass Spectrometry
ATW	Alpha-Toxic waste
BFS	Blast Furnace Slag
CEM	Standard designation for a type of cement composition
GC	Gas Chromatography
GC-MS	Gas Chromatography coupled with Mass Spectrometry
GC-TCD	Gas Chromatography coupled with Thermal Conductivity Detector
HLW	High-Level Waste (spent fuel assemblies and high-level waste from reprocessing)
L/ILW	Low- and Intermediate-Level Waste
MS	Mass Spectrometry
OPA	Opalinus Clay
OPC	Ordinary Portland Cement
OPC/BFS	Ordinary Portland Cement/Blast Furnace Slag
RH	Relative Humidity
SF	Spent Fuel assemblies
YCW	Young Cement Water

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of this report

The main objective of the present report is to define representative corrosion rates for relevant metallic materials under the conditions expected in a deep geological repository in Opalinus Clay according to the Swiss disposal concept. This goal is achieved based on a detailed literature review and the development of criteria for the selection of relevant studies. The review includes data from studies published in peer-reviewed articles, as well as in public reports from waste management organizations and elsewhere. As such, this report is an update of Diomidis (2014).

Corrosion is an irreversible interfacial reaction of a material with its environment, resulting in the loss of material or in the dissolution of one of the constituents of the environment into the material (Landolt 2007). Corrosion is a system property and thus the corrosion behaviour of a material depends on its chemical, physical, and mechanical properties, as well as the chemical, physical, and mechanical conditions of the environment. As a result, the mechanism and rate of corrosion of a metallic material can evolve with the conditions prevailing in the near field of a deep geological repository.

Corrosion is a process that is important for the assessment of the performance and safety of a deep geological repository as it can contribute to the following phenomena:

- Breaching of disposal canisters. Canisters for the disposal of spent fuel (SF) and high-level waste (HLW) will gradually corrode in the repository, and eventually, under the combined effects of environmental degradation and applied or residual stresses will fail allowing the ingress of porewater. The rate and mechanism of corrosion of the canister material are important input parameters for the prediction of the lifetime of the canisters. Further information on canister corrosion and lifetime prediction is provided in Nagra (2024b), in prep. for the reference carbon steel canister and in Diomidis & King (2022) for an alternative copper-coated disposal canister.
- Generation of gas. In the absence of oxygen (O_2), the cathodic half-reaction of metallic corrosion involves the reduction of water which generates hydrogen (H_2). Gas generation, migration and accumulation in a deep geological repository has the potential to influence the performance of engineered and natural barriers. As such, the rate of corrosion, which defines the rate of gas generation from metallic materials, is an important input parameter in performance assessment. Further information related to the assessment of gas-related phenomena is provided in Nagra (2024f), in prep.
- Release of radionuclides. Activated metals tend to release the majority of their radionuclide inventory congruently with corrosion. Thus, the corrosion rate defines the rate of radionuclide release and is an important factor in consequence analyses. Further information on the assessment of radionuclide release is provided in Nagra (2024a), in prep. and Nagra (2024g), in prep.

The following sections of Chapter 1 provide a short overview of the metal inventory in the planned deep geological repository, and the expected near-field environment to which the metallic materials will be exposed. Chapter 2 describes and substantiates the selection process for the identification of relevant studies from the literature with the aim of obtaining a corrosion dataset that is representative of the Swiss deep geological repository environment. The selected studies and the reported corrosion rates are presented in Chapter 3. A summary of the defined corrosion rates is presented in Chapter 4.

1.2 Repository layout

The current Nagra project for the general license application in Nördlich Lägern envisages two disposal facilities, one for HLW and SF, and one for low/intermediate-level (L/ILW) and alpha-toxic (ATW) waste, co-located at the same site, i.e., in a so-called "combined repository".

The underground part of the combined repository will be constructed in Opalinus Clay (OPA) at a depth between 800 – 900 b.g.l. The generic layout of a combined repository is given in Nagra (2021) (Fig. 1-1). It will include a series of dead-end emplacement drifts for HLW/SF and dead-end emplacement caverns for L/ILW and ATW. The HLW emplacement drifts will be spatially separated from L/ILW emplacement rooms such that interactions between the two parts are minimised.

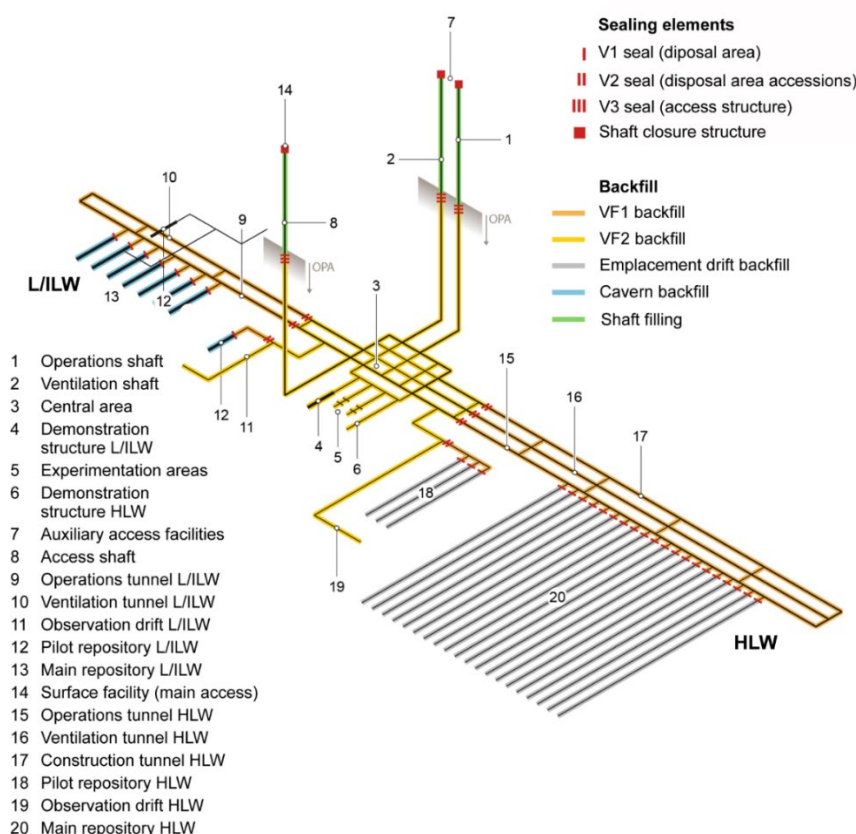


Fig. 1-1: Generic layout of the underground facilities of the Swiss provisional deep geological repository

From Nagra (2021)

Operational L/ILW and ATW will be mainly solidified in cement, packed into 200 L drums and placed into disposal containers made of concrete and heavily armoured with rebars (Nagra 2024d, in prep.). L/ILW and ATW from decommissioning will be emplaced directly into the concrete disposal containers. The void space within the disposal containers will be filled with a highly flowable mortar (Nagra 2024d, in prep.).

SF and vitrified HLW in their fabrication flasks will be loaded into disposal canisters, which, according to the current Nagra repository project, will be made of carbon steel. The disposal canisters will be around 5 m (SF) and 4 m (HLW) long. They will each have a diameter of around 1.1 m (SF) or 0.7 m (HLW), and a wall thickness of 14 cm (Nagra 2024b, in prep.).

1.3 Near-field environment of the L/ILW repository section

The aspects of the phenomenological evolution of the L/ILW repository near field that are relevant to metal corrosion in the L/ILW repository part are briefly summarised in this section. More details can be found in Nagra (2024d), in prep. and Nagra (2024e), in prep.

The ambient temperature for the L/ILW part of the repository in the proposed siting region of Nördlich Lägern at a depth between 800 – 900 b.g.l, is expected to be in the order of 45 °C. Initially, the temperature in the L/ILW backfilled caverns will increase to a maximum of 10 – 15 °C above the ambient value, primarily due to cement hydration. The temperature peaks within a few months after backfilling with mortar, and then decreases over several years to become similar to the ambient temperature in the surrounding rock. In the long-term, the temperature of the L/ILW repository near field is expected to be stable as no influence from the HLW repository is foreseen.

After the sealing of each emplacement cavern, O₂ in the entrapped atmosphere will be consumed by aerobic corrosion, degradation of organic materials and other processes (e.g., sorption, or pyrite oxidation). After O₂ depletion, the L/ILW repository near field will remain anoxic.

Initially, little free water is expected. However, it is assumed that the L/ILW emplacement caverns will have a high relative humidity and be only locally partially saturated. In the early post-closure period (first few 100s of years) saturation in the caverns gradually increases due to inflow from the host rock. Later on, and up to a few 10'000s of years, the saturation decreases due to gas generation and accumulation. In the late post-closure period, water saturation increases again as gas generation decreases. In general, any water accumulation in the caverns will happen very slowly and will be confined to the bottom parts of the caverns, while de-saturated conditions, with pore space occupied by the remaining gas, will persist in the upper parts of the caverns.

Highly alkaline near-field conditions will prevail due to the ordinary Portland cement (OPC) used as a backfill and the other cementitious materials used in construction, waste containers and infill. However, the buffer capacity of the cement can be reduced by interaction with the CO₂ produced by organic degradation (carbonation) and/or with the fine fraction of the siliceous aggregates (pozzolanic reaction). Cement degradation can be divided into 4 main stages:

- I. The freshly hydrated cement/concrete stage, with a high pH pore water between 12.5 and 13.5 due to the significant amounts of dissolved alkali hydroxides.
- II. The portlandite (Ca(OH)₂) stability stage, characterised by a lower ionic strength and saturation equilibrium with portlandite, which buffers the porewater pH at ~ 12.5.
- III. The low-pH stage, where the portlandite is completely dissolved by pozzolanic reaction or carbonation. The portlandite is converted by modified calcium silicate hydrate (C-S-H) phases and porewater pH values are between 12.5 and 10.
- IV. The fourth stage is the final cement degradation state where all Ca-bearing cement phases are fully dissolved. This state may be reached only when significant amounts of CO₂ have been involved in the carbonation process.

In a deep geological repository, concrete degradation will not be homogeneous in space and time. Highly alkaline cement pore solutions in equilibrium with portlandite (stage II) might exist in certain areas of the near field for very long times. On the other hand, cement degradation may proceed relatively fast to degradation stages III or even IV in parts of the near field where there are: (i) interactions with the host rock; (ii) aggregate-cement reactions and (iii) easily degradable organics. Furthermore, the temporal evolution of cement degradation is controlled by the availability of water and especially the delayed re-saturation of the L/ILW repository (i.e., fully water saturated parts of the repository evolve faster, whereas cement degradation in de-saturated

parts is slowed down). In combination with a complex evolution of water saturation, the heterogeneous distribution of cement materials and waste types in the caverns might result in a strong compartmentalisation of the chemical near field. As a result, a pH domain (i.e., $\geq$ or < 10.5) has been calculated for each waste package type, based on the MIRAM waste inventory (Nagra 2023b), the amount of CO₂ generated by the degradation rates of organics (Guillemot et al. 2023), and the type of aggregates present in the cement paste (Kosakowski et al. 2020). The pH range for each waste package type is documented in Nagra (2023a).

1.4 Near-field environment in the HLW repository section

The aspects of the phenomenological evolution of the HLW repository near field that are relevant to metal corrosion in the HLW repository are briefly summarised in this section. More details can be found in Nagra (2024c), in prep. and Nagra (2024e), in prep.

For SF canisters, the initial heat output is below 1,500 W per canister. Based on simulations of the current repository concept, temperature at the canister interface with the buffer is expected to reach about 150 °C within about ten years after backfilling and sealing of the drift. During the period until $\sim 1,000$ years after closure, the canister surface temperature will decline to approximately 80 – 90 °C. In the period from $\sim 1,000$ to $\sim 10,000$ years, the buffer temperature will fall from about 80 °C to about 60 °C. Beyond $\sim 10,000$ years, the temperatures will continue to decrease towards ambient values. For HLW canisters, which have a lower heat loading than the SF canisters, the surface temperature reaches a maximum of around 130 °C a few years after repository closure, followed by a gradual decay.

The results from large scale experiments indicate that gaseous O₂ disappears rapidly after backfilling of the HLW drifts (within weeks). However, an important pool of O₂ may remain stored as sorbed O₂ on the external surfaces of the bentonite. Several processes, such as diffusion of dissolved O₂ towards the OPA, aerobic respiration and corrosion and mineral oxidation, however, will consume the entrapped O₂. In the long-term, anaerobic and reducing conditions will be established throughout the near field within and around the emplacement drifts.

Resaturation of the near field starts after emplacement of the canister and backfilling of the drift with compacted bentonite. A saturation front will develop due to the steep pressure gradient into the high-suction bentonite material which drives vapour diffusion and/or liquid flow, resulting in early saturated conditions near the drift perimeter. A significant period of time will be required for the full saturation of the buffer due to the expected low flow from the OPA, as well as the effects of heat generated by the waste. Saturation of the buffer has been estimated to take around 200 years.

The bentonite blocks and granular bentonite together form a protective mechanical and chemical buffer around the disposal canisters, maintaining near-neutral pH conditions (pH ~ 8).

1.5 Inventory of metallic materials

The types and total amounts of metals and alloys that will be disposed of in the Swiss deep geological repository are fully described in Nagra (2023b). These metallic materials can be linked according to their corrosion properties to form groups of defined corrosion rates as described hereafter.

1.5.1 L/ILW

The complete list of metals and alloys disposed of in the L/ILW repository and the corresponding corrosion groups are provided in Tab. 1-1.

Tab. 1-1: List of metals and alloys to be disposed of in L/ILW caverns and associated corrosion groups[/]

Based on the MIRAM RBG database (Nagra 2023b)

Metals and alloys	Corrosion group
Steel	Iron and carbon steel
Cast iron	Iron and carbon steel
Steel III SIA 162	Iron and carbon steel
CrNi-steel	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Steel 12.03	Iron and carbon steel
Aluminium Al	Aluminium
Lead Pb	Lead
Steel US A508	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Steel 37	Iron and carbon steel
Iron Fe	Iron and carbon steel
Steel US 304	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Stainless steel	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Copper Cu	Copper
Steel 1.6751	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Zircaloy-2	Zircaloy
Steel 1.4550	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Steel 1.4571	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Steel 1.4301	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Zircaloy-4	Zircaloy
Nickel Ni	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Steel 1.6958	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Zinc Zn	Zinc
Steel 18.8	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Inconel 600	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Steel 1.4541	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
PbBi-Eutectic (PbBi55.5%)	Lead
Brass CuZn37%	Zinc
Silver Ag	-
Uranium U	-
Aluminium Al (Mg3%Si1%)	Aluminium
Mild/construction steel	Iron and carbon steel
Halfnium Hf	Zircaloy
Inconel 750	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Aluminium Al (Mg0.5%Si0.5%)	Aluminium
Tungsten W	Zircaloy

[/] Metals without an assigned corrosion group are metals that are either not expected to corrode under repository conditions or the amounts are negligible compared to the other groups.

Tab. 1-1: Cont.

Metals and alloys	Corrosion group
Tungsten W (Ni6%Cu4%)	Zircaloy
Magnesium Mg	Magnesium
Tin Sn	-
Tantalum Ta	Zircaloy
Nickel Ni (Mo28%)	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Titanium Ti	Zircaloy
Stellite	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Gold Au	-
Beryllium Be	-
Thorium Th	-
Inconel 718	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Cadmium Cd	-
Antimony Sb	-
Zirconium Zr	Zircaloy
Niobium Nb	-
Chromium Cr	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Calcium Ca	-
Cobalt Co	-

In L/ILW, iron and carbon steel is the largest corrosion group followed by stainless steel and Ni alloys and to a much smaller extent, by aluminium, lead, copper and Zircaloy (Nagra 2023b).

1.5.2 HLW

The complete list of HLW metals and alloys and corresponding corrosion groups are shown in Tab. 1-2.

Tab. 1-2: List of metals and alloys to be disposed of in HLW caverns and associated corrosion groups

Based on the MIRAM RBG database (Nagra 2023b)

Metals disposed of in HLW	Corrosion group
Steel	Iron and carbon steel
Zircaloy-2	Zircaloy
Zircaloy-4	Zircaloy
Stainless steel	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
CrNi-steel	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Inconel	Stainless steel and Ni alloys
Aluminium Al (Mg3%Si1%)	-
Lead Pb	-

Tab. 1-2: Cont.

Metals disposed of in HLW	Corrosion group
Aluminium Al	-
Copper Cu	-
Brass CuZn37%	-

In HLW, iron and carbon steel is the most predominant corrosion group, primarily due to the disposal canisters (Nagra 2023b). Zircaloy and stainless steel are also present but in smaller amounts compared to iron and carbon steel. The other metals (e.g., aluminium, lead, copper and brass) correspond only to traces². They originate from research reactors and operational activities of the PSI Hot Laboratory (Nagra 2023b).

1.5.3 Construction materials

In the deep geological repository, metals will also be used as construction materials for tunnel support, concrete reinforcement, and shaft lining. Such components will be made almost exclusively from carbon steel³ and can contribute a significant amount to the total metal inventory in the repository.

² As they are present in negligible amounts these metallic materials are not assigned to a corrosion group.

³ In the current concept, the steel lining of the shaft is foreseen to be stainless steel.

2 Selection of relevant data

2.1 General approach to data selection

A wide range of studies of the corrosion of metallic materials are available in the literature. Most of the available studies supporting deep geological radioactive waste disposal reflect the expected near-field conditions of individual disposal concepts and have been performed according to specific requirements of various national programmes. As a result, a selection of the available data is made in order to consider only results that are representative of, and relevant to, the current Nagra reference concept. However, for some materials the number of available studies is limited. Thus, the selection of relevant studies can become a compromise between the exclusion of irrelevant data and ensuring the inclusion of a wide enough dataset. The criteria used for the selection of relevant corrosion studies are discussed below and in more detail in the following sections of this chapter.

The conditions under which the experiments have been performed are an important factor determining the relevance of a particular corrosion study. Thus, parameters such as the chemistry of the test environment (with focus on the absence of O₂ and the pH) and the temperature are employed as selection criteria. Overall, only corrosion studies performed under anoxic conditions are considered here. In general, the nature of the environment has not been used as a selection criterion, e.g., both tests performed on specimens encased in cementitious grouts and done in simulated cementitious porewater are accepted. Similarly, studies done in both saturated and unsaturated relevant environments are retained in order to cover the expected hydraulic evolution of the repository near field. A particular exception is the selection criteria employed for the SF/HLW disposal canisters, for which only tests in compacted saturated bentonite are accepted.

The corrosion rate of most metallic materials tends to decrease with time due to the gradual build-up of corrosion products on the metal surface and their protective character. A steady-state will prevail when the rate of oxide growth equals the rate of oxide dissolution at the oxide/electrolyte interface. In the relatively benign conditions of the near field of a deep geological repository, it can take a significantly long time until this state is reached. Since the aim of this report is to define corrosion rates that are representative of the long-term evolution of the repository, the test duration is commonly used as a selection criterion. Furthermore, if the same experiment is reported in several publications, only the latest publication containing the longest duration data is considered. Nevertheless, the continuous decline of the corrosion rate even in studies lasting for ~17 years (Hesketh et al. 2023) indicates that the rates reported in the literature, and as a consequence the reference corrosion rates defined in this report, tend to be conservative, since reported experiments last a few years at best.

An additional important factor that was discussed in Diomidis (2014) is the technique used to measure the corrosion rate. It is necessary that the sensitivity of the technique is at least of the same order of magnitude as the measured corrosion rate. Measurements based on the rate of H₂ evolution are generally more sensitive than those based on mass loss or electrochemistry and are preferred for estimating corrosion rates lower than a few 100s nm/a. Tab. 2-1 lists the approximate sensitivities of the H₂ measurement techniques in the studies reviewed for this report.

Tab. 2-1: Sensitivity of different techniques used for measuring evolved H₂ expressed in terms of the corresponding corrosion rate for Fe in units of nm/a

Technique	Solid-state H ₂ probe	Pressure transducer	Barometric
Sensitivity	< 0.1 (Senior et al. 2020, Kursten et al. 2021)	~ 1 (Kursten et al. 2021)	~ 100* (Kursten et al. 2021)

* except for the work of Kreis (1993) where 5 nm/a is claimed.

For semi-batch measurements in which gas samples are taken periodically, the precise sensitivity will depend on the sampling interval, with greater sensitivity for longer intervals. Similar to Diomidis (2014), electrochemical methods (i.e., Tafel extrapolation, linear polarisation resistance, impedance techniques) or rates estimated based on the release of ¹⁴C from irradiated materials are considered to be unreliable for measurement of the corrosion rate and are excluded from consideration. Furthermore, corrosion rates based only on expert elicitation are excluded.

Some experimental techniques, such as weight loss or batch-type gas generation measurements from sealed ampoules, provide a time-averaged corrosion rate over the duration of the experiment. Here, the focus is on the "instantaneous" corrosion rate at (or close to) the end of the monitoring period, typically determined from the amount of H₂ evolved over a relatively short period of time. In some cases, time-averaged corrosion rates have been converted to an "instantaneous" rate based on the assumption that the rate varies with time (t) according to $t^{-0.5}$. Hesketh et al. (2023) have calculated the time exponent of the power law decay curve of the anaerobic corrosion rate of steel in bentonite in long-term experiments and have found it to range between 0.43 and 0.78, indicating that the employed value of 0.5 is a good approximation.

Generally, no attempt has been made to select data based on a specific alloy composition. Thus, all alloys of a certain corrosion group (cf. Tab. 1-1; Tab. 1-2) are treated as exhibiting the same corrosion behaviour. Similarly, all forms of specimens (e.g., wires, rods, plates) and all starting surface states (e.g., ground, polished, pickled, pre-corroded) are considered, in order to cover, as far as possible, the various forms, shapes and surface states expected to be encountered in the waste.

2.2 Material-specific selection criteria

2.2.1 Iron and carbon steel

The available long-term corrosion studies on iron and carbon steel allow the specification of corrosion rates for both L/ILW and construction materials (under highly alkaline and near-neutral environments) and for the HLW/SF canisters (embedded in bentonite).

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in highly alkaline environments

- pH ≥ 10.5.
- Temperature ≤ 50 °C.
- Experimental duration > 700 days (~ 2 years).
- H₂ measurements with a sensitivity of 5 nm/a or better.

Diomidis (2014) discussed the evidence for the selection of the experimental duration criterion. An additional selection criterion is the measurement sensitivity of 5 nm/a, which is specified because the corrosion rates are low.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in near-neutral environments

- pH < 10.5.
- Temperature ≤ 50 °C.
- Experimental duration > 365 days (~ 1 year).

A shorter duration criterion compared to bentonite (see below) is employed since there is evidence that steady state is reached faster in solution (King 2008). Since the corrosion rates are higher at the lower pH values representative of an advanced degradation stage of highly alkaline cement or in low-pH cement, mass-loss measurements and all types of H₂ measurements without a sensitivity limitation are accepted for this environment.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in compacted bentonite

- Compacted saturated bentonite environment.
- Temperature ≤ 80 °C.
- Experimental duration > 1460 days (~ 4 years).

The environment and temperature criteria are selected to represent the conditions to which the SF/HLW disposal canister will be exposed. A relatively long minimum exposure period is specified to ensure, as much as possible, that corrosion rates representative of the long-term canister evolution are retained. Studies carried out in bentonite slurries or in simulated bentonite pore-water solutions are excluded. Since the corrosion rates are relatively high in compacted bentonite, mass-loss measurements and all types of H₂ measurements without a sensitivity limitation are accepted for this environment.

2.2.2 Stainless steel and Ni alloys

The corrosion studies on stainless steel and Ni alloys available in the literature allow the specification of corrosion rates under both highly alkaline and near-neutral environments.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in highly alkaline environments

- pH ≥ 10.5.
- Temperature ≤ 50 °C.
- Experimental duration > 700 days (~ 2 years).
- H₂ measurements with a sensitivity 2 nm/a or better.

The corrosion rate sensitivity criterion reflects the very low corrosion rates expected for these passive alloys in a deep geological repository environment.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in near-neutral environments

- $\text{pH} < 10.5$.
- Temperature $\leq 50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Experimental duration > 700 days (~ 2 years).
- H_2 measurements with a sensitivity 2 nm/a or better.

2.2.3 Aluminium

The corrosion studies on aluminium available in the literature allow the specification of corrosion rates under both highly alkaline and near-neutral environments.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in highly alkaline environments

- $10.5 \leq \text{pH} \leq 13$.
- Temperature $\leq 50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Experimental duration > 30 days (~ 1 month).

Measurements at $\text{pH} > 13$ are excluded because the corrosion rate of aluminium is very high under these conditions, and it is thus expected to last for only a very short period in the repository.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in near-neutral environments

- $\text{pH} < 10.5$.
- Temperature $\leq 50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Experimental duration > 30 days (~ 1 month).

2.2.4 Lead

Lead is not expected to corrode under anoxic conditions (Pourbaix 1974). However, for completeness, selection criteria were defined for lead corrosion:

- Temperature $\leq 50\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$.

The only relevant study in an anoxic environment was conducted at $\text{pH} \geq 10.5$. In the absence of data for $\text{pH} < 10.5$, the rates are used for both highly alkaline and near-neutral conditions. Since the corrosion rate of lead increases with increasing pH, the resulting corrosion rates for near-neutral conditions ($\text{pH} < 10.5$) will be conservative.

2.2.5 Zircaloy

The corrosion studies available for Zircaloy allow the specification of corrosion rates for both highly alkaline and near-neutral environments.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in highly alkaline environments

- $\text{pH} \geq 10.5$.
- Temperature ≤ 50 °C.
- Experimental duration > 700 days.
- Measurements based only on the generation of H_2 .

Because Zr alloys absorb a significant fraction of the H_2 produced by anaerobic corrosion, the corrosion rates are based on the sum of the absorbed and evolved H_2 . If only evolved H_2 is reported, the corrosion rate is corrected assuming that 90% of H_2 has been absorbed (Sakuragi 2017a). Kato et al. (2014) analysed the amount of absorbed H_2 after about 70 exposure tests on Zircaloy 2 and 4 and reported H_2 pick-up ratios varying between 34 and 94%, with the vast majority of tests exhibiting pick-up ratios in the 86-94% range.

Selection criteria for corrosion rates in near-neutral environments

Except for the pH, the selection criteria under highly alkaline and near-neutral conditions are identical. The reported rates have also been corrected as discussed above, where necessary. The selection criteria for near-neutral environments are:

- $\text{pH} < 10.5$.
- Temperature ≤ 50 °C.
- Experimental duration > 700 days.
- Measurements based only on the generation of H_2 .

2.2.6 Copper

Copper is not expected to corrode under anoxic conditions (Pourbaix 1974). However the vast majority of the studies on the corrosion of copper in a deep geological repository environment have been focused on near-neutral and compacted bentonite environments (Diomidis & King 2022). For completeness, selection criteria were defined for copper corrosion in highly alkaline environments:

- $\text{pH} \geq 10.5$.
- Temperature ≤ 50 °C.

2.2.7 Zinc

The only available study for Zn in an anoxic environment was conducted at $\text{pH} \geq 10.5$. In the absence of data for $\text{pH} < 10.5$, the rates are used for both highly alkaline and near-neutral conditions. Since the corrosion rate of zinc increases with increasing pH, the resulting H_2 generation rates in near neutral environments ($\text{pH} < 10.5$) will be conservative.

2.2.8 Magnesium

- 30 °C $\leq$ temperature ≤ 50 °C,

The selection criterion related to temperature has been employed because the corrosion rate of magnesium is particularly sensitive to temperature (Cronin & Collier 2012). Based on this criterion, the only available studies are in highly alkaline environment ($\text{pH} \geq 10.5$). In the absence of data for $\text{pH} < 10.5$, the rates are used for both highly alkaline and near-neutral

conditions. However, the Pourbaix diagram for the Mg-H₂O system suggests that the alloy might passivate due to the formation of a Mg(OH)₂ surface film (Pourbaix 1974). Thus, measurements in alkaline environments may not be conservative when applied to near-neutral conditions (pH < 10.5). It should however be noted that any resulting under-estimate of the amount of evolved H₂ is expected to be small as the amount of magnesium in the L/ILW is negligible (Nagra 2023b).

2.3 Corrosion reactions and stoichiometries

For the estimation of the quantity of H₂ evolved for a given amount of corrosion, it is necessary to define the stoichiometry of the corrosion reaction. The following stoichiometric reactions are assumed for the different corrosion groups included in the current review. In almost all cases, the metallic wastes and canister material are alloys containing a principal alloying element (such as Fe in carbon steel and cast iron) plus a number of additional alloying elements (such as Cr in stainless steels and Ni alloys). Here, each alloy group is represented by a single element and a single stoichiometric reaction is defined for the calculation of the number of moles of H₂ produced for each mole of corroded metal. Generally, the defined stoichiometry will result in a conservative assessment of the amount of generated H₂.

Iron and carbon steel

The product of the corrosion of iron and carbon steel under anoxic conditions is defined as magnetite Fe₃O₄, formed via the following reaction:



An alternative corrosion product under anoxic conditions is ferrous hydroxide Fe(OH)₂, which results in only 1 mole of H₂ per mole of corroded Fe. Hence, the assumption that Fe₃O₄ is the stable corrosion product would result in a conservative prediction of the amount of H₂ produced.

Stainless steel and Ni alloys

Stainless steels and Ni alloys contain a number of elements, including Fe, Ni, and Cr, with Fe as the main constituent of stainless steel and Ni as the main constituent of the Ni alloys. It is assumed that the corrosion product of both stainless steels and Ni alloys is Fe₃O₄ with the same stoichiometry as Reaction 2-1.

This assumption will result in a conservative assessment of H₂ production from the corrosion of the Ni constituent (to form Ni(OH)₂) and Fe, if Fe(OH)₂ is the stable corrosion product. The amount of H₂ produced by the corrosion of Cr (to form Cr(OH)₃) will be underestimated, but this will be balanced by the overestimation of the amount of H₂ produced by the corrosion of Fe and Ni. Overall, it is considered that the assumption of the formation of Fe₃O₄ results in a realistic or slightly conservative assessment.

Aluminium

Based on the Pourbaix diagram for the Al-H₂O system (Pourbaix 1974), the predominant oxidation state for corroded aluminium for the entire range of pH and redox potential of interest is +3. Therefore, the stoichiometry can be represented by:



Lead

Even if lead is not expected to corrode under anoxic conditions (Pourbaix 1974), a finite upper bound corrosion rate was defined. The predominant oxidation state for corroded lead over the pH and redox potential range of interest is +2 (Pourbaix 1974).

The corrosion reaction can be expressed as:



Zircaloy

The predominant oxidation state for zirconium for the pH and redox potential range of interest is +4 (Pourbaix 1974). The corrosion reaction is represented by:



It is conservatively assumed that 100% of the H₂ produced is evolved and that no H₂ remains either absorbed in the metal or present in the form of zirconium hydride.

Copper

Copper is not expected to corrode under anoxic conditions (Diomidis & King 2022, Pourbaix 1974). However, a finite upper bound corrosion rate is defined for alkaline conditions (see below), for the purposes of which the corrosion product is assumed to be Cu₂O:



Zinc

Zinc corrodes in the +2 oxidation state over the entire pH and redox potential range of interest (Pourbaix 1974). The corrosion reaction stoichiometry is given by:



Magnesium

Magnesium dissolves in the +2 oxidation state for the pH and redox potentials of interest (Pourbaix 1974). The corrosion reaction can be represented by:



3 Corrosion rates

For each corrosion group, values are given for the best estimate corrosion rate, as well as lower and upper bound values.

3.1 Iron and carbon steel

Corrosion rates for iron and carbon steel are defined for anoxic conditions in: (i) highly alkaline environments; (ii) near-neutral environments; and (iii) embedded in compacted bentonite. The reference corrosion rates, including a brief rationale for their selection, for the three above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3, respectively. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.1, which for the three above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6, respectively. The studies excluded from consideration are shown in Tables A-1, A-2 and A-3, respectively.

Tab. 3-1: Overview of reference corrosion rates for iron and carbon steel in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	6	Mean of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-4.
Lower bound	3×10^{-2}	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-4 (Senior et al. 2023a).
Upper bound	20	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-4 (Kaneko et al. 2004, Nishimura et al. 2003).

Tab. 3-2: Overview of reference corrosion rates for iron and carbon steel in anoxic near-neutral environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	1×10^3	Mean of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-5.
Lower bound	0.3	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-5 (Senior & Martino 2022).
Upper bound	7.5×10^3	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-5 (Xu et al. 2014).

Tab. 3-3: Overview of reference corrosion rates for iron and carbon steel embedded in compacted bentonite

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	3×10^2	Mean of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-6.
Lower bound	26	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-6 (Taniguchi et al. 2010).
Upper bound	7×10^2	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-6 (Taniguchi et al. 2010).

Tab. 3-4: Selected corrosion studies for iron and carbon steel in anoxic highly alkaline environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference			
	Type	pH								
99% Fe	NaOH	12.8	21 ± 3	H ₂ (barometric)	~ 700	5	Kreis (1993)			
	KOH	12.8				5				
	Ca(OH) ₂	12.8				2.7				
	Cement pore water Ia	13.2				11				
	Cement pore water Ib	12.9				11				
	Cement pore water II	12.5				2.7				
mild steel	Saturated Ca(OH) ₂ + 3,000 mg/L Cl ⁻	12.4	35	H ₂ (MS)	900	20	Nishimura et al. (2003)			
mild steel	Cement equilibrated water	11.8	30	H ₂ (API-MS)	750	5	RWMC (1998); Kaneko et al. (2004)			
	Saturated Ca(OH) ₂ + 5,000 mg/L Cl ⁻	12.5			892	20				
AISI 1017	YCW + 500 mg/L HS- + 100 mg/L S ₂ O ₃ ²⁻ irradiated at 25 Gy h ⁻¹	13.4	25	H ₂ (pressure transducer)	750	8*	Smart et al. (2021)			
98% Fe	Portlandite saturated OPA porewater	12.5	50	H ₂ (probe)	~ 2,600	3×10 ⁻²	Senior et al. (2023a)			
	Backfill grout 100% RH	-			~ 2,550	0.5				
		-				0.3				
	Conditioning cement 100% RH	-			~ 2,000	6×10 ⁻²				
	Backfill grout in portlandite sat. OPA porewater	12.5			~2,000	5×10 ⁻²				
~ 1,900					9×10 ⁻²					
99.5% Fe	Saturated portlandite	12.5						~ 850	0.1	
								8		

* Converted reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

Tab. 3-5: Selected corrosion studies for iron and carbon steel in anoxic near-neutral environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
EN10248-1	Bentonite slurry 30% wt. in artificial groundwater (19,170 ppm Cl ⁻)	8.1	30	H ₂ (barometric)	~ 650	5×10 ²	Smart et al. (2004b)
			50			5×10 ²	
EN10248-1	Simulated groundwater (32,100 ppm Cl ⁻)	6.9	50	H ₂ (barometric)	856	3.5×10 ²	Smart et al. (2004a)
	Buffered groundwater	7			2,607	52	
Q235	Groundwater simulant	7	25	weight loss	365	7.5×10 ^{3*}	Xu et al. (2014)
98% Fe	100% RH		50	H ₂ (probe)	~ 1,800	0.3	Senior & Martino (2022)
99.5% Fe					~ 1,000	10	
98% Fe	Synthetic OPA porewater	8.3			~ 1,800	5×10 ²	
EN10248-1	Simulated bentonite porewater	8.4	30	H ₂ (barometric)	~ 5,800	1.4×10 ²	Unpublished ongoing research
			50		~ 6,600	2.8×10 ²	

* Converted reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

Tab. 3-6: Selected corrosion studies for carbon steel embedded in compacted and saturated bentonite under anoxic conditions

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
JIS G3106 SM400B	Saturated with synthetic sea water (19,880 ppm Cl ⁻)	7.9-8.4	50	weight loss	~ 3,650	7×10 ^{2*}	Taniguchi et al. (2010)
			80			3.4×10 ^{2*}	
	Saturated with high carbonate solution (19,880 ppm Cl ⁻)	8.3-8.7	80			3.3×10 ^{2*}	
			80			26*	
	Saturated with synthetic freshwater (89 ppm Cl ⁻)	9.1-9.2	80			4.5×10 ^{2*}	
EN10248-1	Saturated with synthetic OPA porewater	7.2	60	H ₂ (barometric)	~ 4,730	2.1×10 ²	Unpublished ongoing research
					~ 4,730	1.5×10 ²	
					~ 3,130	2.2×10 ²	
	Saturated with 1M NaCl	8.4	50		~ 6,550	1.3×10 ²	
			30		~ 4,620	1.1×10 ²	
					~ 4,680	1.7×10 ²	
	Saturated with 1M NaCl	11	50		~ 1,670	3.6×10 ²	
					~ 6,530	1.6×10 ²	
					~ 4,610	1.2×10 ²	
	Saturated with 10mM NaCl	8.4	30		~ 4,670	2.6×10 ²	
					~ 4,630	2.6×10 ²	
						2.2×10 ²	
	Saturated with Allard	8.4	30		~ 4,630	3.0×10 ²	
						2.3×10 ²	
						2.1×10 ²	

Tab. 3-6: Cont.

Material	Environment		Temperature	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
ASTM A694-08 F65	Saturated with OPA porewater	7.2	14	weight loss	~ 3,100	$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	Unpublished ongoing research
						$3.4 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.4 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.7 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.5 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.1 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.4 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.4 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.5 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.5 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.6 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.6 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.5 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.5 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.5 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.7 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$4.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.7 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.6 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.3 \times 10^{2*}$	
						$3.4 \times 10^{2*}$	
ASTM A694-08 F65 EB weld							
ASTM A516 Gr.70							

* Converted reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

3.2 Stainless steel and Ni alloys

Corrosion rates for stainless steel and Ni alloys are defined for both highly alkaline and near-neutral anoxic environments. The reference corrosion rates, including a brief rationale for their selection, for the above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-7 and 3-8, respectively. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.2, which for the above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-9 and 3-10, respectively. The studies excluded from consideration are shown in Tables A-4 and A-5.

Tab. 3-7: Overview of reference corrosion rates for stainless steel and Ni alloys in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	0.6	Mean of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-9.
Lower bound	2×10^{-2}	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-9 (Senior et al. 2023b).
Upper bound	1.4	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-9 (Sakuragi et al. 2016b).

Tab. 3-8: Overview of reference corrosion rates for stainless steel and Ni alloys in anoxic near-neutral environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	0.4	Mean of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-10.
Lower bound	0.2	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-10 (Sakuragi 2017b).
Upper bound	1	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-10 (Sakuragi 2017b).

Tab. 3-9: Selected corrosion studies for stainless steel and nickel alloys in anoxic highly alkaline environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
18Cr-8Ni austenitic SS	NaOH	12.5	30	H ₂ (API-MS) – gas flow	2,360	0.36 0.39	Sakuragi et al. (2016a)
18Cr-8Ni austenitic SS	NaOH	12.5	30 50	H ₂ (GC) – ampoule tests	720	0.32* 0.46* 1.2* 1.4*	Sakuragi et al. (2016b)
Unknown (1.4541 or 1.4550 or 1.4571)	ACW	12.5	25	H ₂ (GC-MS)	1,637	1	Guillemot et al. (2022)
316L	Encased in CEM I at 100% RH Encased in CEM I immersed in YCW	- 13.5	50	H ₂ (probe)	~ 1,300	0.2 < 2×10 ^{-2**}	Senior et al. (2023c)

* Converted reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

** Below detection limit.

Tab. 3-10: Selected corrosion studies for stainless steel and nickel alloys in anoxic near-neutral environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
18Cr-8Ni austenitic SS	deionised water	-	25	H ₂ (API-MS) - gas flow	~ 1,000 ~ 900	0.2 0.3	Sakuragi (2017b)
			30 50	H ₂ (GC-TCD) – ampoule tests	~ 1,095	0.25* 1*	

* Converted the reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

3.3 Aluminium

Corrosion rates for aluminium are defined for both highly alkaline and near-neutral anoxic environments. The reference corrosion rates, including a brief rationale for their selection, for the above-mentioned environments are shown in Tab. 3-11 and 3-12, respectively. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.3, which for the above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-13 and 3-14, respectively. The studies excluded from consideration are shown in Table A-6.

Tab. 3-11: Overview of reference corrosion rates for aluminium in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	6.4×10^4	Mean of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-13.
Lower bound	10	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-13 (Mendibide et al. 2021).
Upper bound	3×10^5	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-13 (Mendibide et al. 2021).

Tab. 3-12: Overview of reference corrosion rates for aluminium in anoxic near-neutral environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	7×10^3	Only reported value in Tab. 3.14.
Lower bound		
Upper bound		

Tab. 3-13: Selected corrosion studies for aluminium in anoxic highly alkaline environments*

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
JIS A 1070	OPC equilibrated solution	12.6	15	H ₂ (GC)	~ 200	5×10 ³	Fujisawa et al. (1996)
	In pulverised OPC mortar				~ 200	8×10 ²	
	Encased in OPC mortar				~ 175	8×10 ²	
JIS A 1070P	OPC equilibrated solution	11.9-12.8	15	H ₂ (GC)	333	1×10 ³	Fujiwara et al. (2017)
EN-AW-5754	Portlandite buffered porewater	12.2	25	H ₂ (volumetric counter)	30	3×10 ⁵	Mendibide et al. (2021)
				weight loss		2×10 ^{5*}	
						2×10 ^{5*}	
	CEM I grout during curing	12.5		weight loss	120	8×10 ^{4*}	
	CEM III/C grout during curing	11.5				1×10 ^{4*}	
	Encased in CEM I grout at 95-97% RH	12.5		H ₂ (GC)	~ 380	6.5×10 ²	
	Encased in CEM III/C grout at 95-97% RH	11.5				< 10 ^{**}	
99.99% Al	Saturated portlandite	12.5	50	H ₂ (pressure transducer)	~ 900	2×10 ³	Senior et al. (2023b)
AA2024					~ 185	3×10 ⁴	

* Reported average corrosion rates have not been corrected since the temporal evolution of the corrosion rate does not always follow $t^{-0.5}$.

** Below detection limit.

Tab. 3-14: Selected corrosion studies for aluminium in anoxic near-neutral environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
AA2024	Groundwater simulant	7	25	weight loss	365	7×10^3 *	Xu et al. (2014)

* Reported average corrosion rates have not been corrected since the temporal evolution of the corrosion rate does not always follow $t^{-0.5}$.

3.4 Lead

Corrosion rates for lead are defined for anoxic environments and, including a brief rationale for their selection, are shown in Table 3-15. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.4, which are shown in Tab. 3-16. The studies excluded from consideration are listed in Table A-7.

Tab. 3-15: Overview of reference corrosion rates for lead in anoxic highly alkaline and near-neutral environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	0	Expected thermodynamic stability in anoxic conditions.
Lower bound	0	
Upper bound	0.5	Highest selected value in Tab. 3-16 (Senior et al. 2023b).

Tab. 3-16: Selected corrosion studies for lead under anoxic highly alkaline environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
99.99% Pb wire	Saturated portlandite	12.5	50	H ₂ (probe)	~ 730	0.5	Senior et al. (2023b)
	YCW	13.5				0.3	

3.5 Zircaloy

Corrosion rates for Zircaloy are defined for both highly alkaline and near-neutral anoxic environments. The reference corrosion rates, including a brief rationale for their selection, for the above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-17 and 3-18, respectively. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.5, which for the above-mentioned environments are shown in Tables 3-19 and 3-20, respectively. The studies excluded from consideration are shown in Tables A-8 and A-9.

Tab. 3-17: Overview of reference corrosion rates for Zircaloy in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	3	Average selected value reported in Tab. 3-19.
Lower bound	0.4	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-19 (Senior et al. 2023b).
Upper bound	9	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-19 (Sakuragi et al. 2013).

Tab. 3-18: Overview of reference corrosion rates for Zircaloy in anoxic near-neutral environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	2.3	Average of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-20 (Sakuragi 2017a).
Lower bound	1.5	Lowest of the selected values reported in Tab. 3-20 (Sakuragi 2017a).
Upper bound	3	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-20 (Sakuragi 2017a).

Tab. 3-19: Selected corrosion studies for Zircaloy in anoxic highly alkaline environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
Zircaloy-4	NaOH	12.5	30	H ₂ (API-MS and gas flow)	1,500	5.7	Sakuragi et al. (2013)
						5.8	
Zircaloy-2					1,000	8.8	
Zircaloy-4	NaOH	12.5	30	H ₂ (GC) – ampoule tests	730	1.9*	Kato et al. (2014)
						1.8*	
			50		1,825	1.7*	
						1.5*	
Zircaloy-2	NaOH	12.5	30	H ₂ (GC) – ampoule tests	730	1.9*	
						2.3*	
			50		730	3.2*	
						3.3*	
Zircaloy-4	NaOH	12.5	50	H ₂ (GC-TCD) – ampoule tests	~ 730	3*	Sakuragi (2017a)
99.2% Zr wire	Saturated portlandite	12.5	50	H ₂ (probe)	~ 730	0.4**	Senior et al. (2023b)
	YCW	13.5				0.7**	

* Converted reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

** Corrected for H₂ adsorption.

Tab. 3-20: Selected corrosion studies for Zircaloy in anoxic near-neutral environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
Pure Zr	Deionised water	-	50	H ₂ (GC-TCD) - ampoule tests	~ 730	3.0*	Sakuragi (2017a)
			30			1.5*	

* Converted reported average rate to instantaneous rate.

3.6 Copper

Corrosion rates for copper are defined for anoxic highly alkaline environments and, including a brief rationale for their selection, are shown in Table 3-21. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.6, which are shown in Tab. 3-22. For near-neutral pH conditions ($\text{pH} < 10.5$), the overwhelming evidence is that copper does not corrode in O_2 -free environments (Diomidis and King 2022). Therefore, for these conditions, the best estimate and lower and upper bound corrosion rates are all defined as zero. No studies in highly alkaline conditions were excluded from consideration.

Tab. 3-21: Overview of reference corrosion rates for copper in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	0	Based on the absence of complexing species such as sulphides that support H_2 evolution.
Lower bound	0	
Upper bound	5×10^{-2}	Based on the highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-22 (Senior et al. 2023b).

Tab. 3-22: Selected corrosion studies for copper in anoxic highly alkaline environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
99.9% Cu wire	YCW	13.5	50	H ₂ (probe)	~ 730	5×10^{-2}	Senior et al. (2023b)
	Saturated portlandite	12.5				$< 5 \times 10^{-3*}$	

* Below detection limit.

3.7 Zinc

Corrosion rates for zinc are defined for anoxic environments and, including a brief rationale for their selection, are shown in Table 3-23. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.7, which are shown in Tab. 3-16. No studies are excluded from consideration.

Tab. 3-23: Overview of reference corrosion rates for zinc in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	1.5×10^2	Average selected value reported in Tab. 3-24.
Lower bound	90	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-24 (Senior et al. 2023b).
Upper bound	2×10^2	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-24 (Senior et al. 2023b).

Tab. 3-24: Selected corrosion studies for zinc in anoxic environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
99.99% Zn wire	Saturated portlandite	12.5	50	H ₂ (pressure transducer)	~ 900	2×10 ²	Senior et al. (2023b)
	YCW	13.5				90	

3.8 Magnesium

Corrosion rates for magnesium are defined for anoxic environments and, including a brief rationale for their selection, are shown in Table 3-25. The reference rates were defined based on the studies retained according to the selection criteria described in Section 2.2.8, which are shown in Tab. 3-26. The studies excluded from consideration are shown in Table A-10.

Tab. 3-25: Overview of reference corrosion rates for magnesium in anoxic highly alkaline environments

	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Rationale
Best estimate	7.6×10^3	Average selected value reported in Tab. 3-26.
Lower bound	8×10^2	Lowest selected value reported in Tab. 3-26 (Cronin & Collier 2012).
Upper bound	2×10^4	Highest selected value reported in Tab. 3-26 (Senior et al. 2023b).

Tab. 3-26: Selected corrosion studies for magnesium in anoxic environments

Material	Environment		Temperature (°C)	Measurement technique	Test duration (days)	Corrosion rate (nm/a)	Reference
	Type	pH					
Magnox swarf (0.7-0.9% Al)	OPC/BFS grout		40	H ₂ (pressure transducer)	~ 900	8×10 ²	Cronin & Collier (2012)
						1.6×10 ³	
99.9% Mg rods	YCW	13.5	50	H ₂ (pressure transducer)	~ 550	2×10 ⁴	Senior et al. (2023b)
	Saturated portlandite	12.5				8×10 ³	

4 Summary

The available literature on the corrosion of metallic materials to be disposed of in a Swiss deep geological repository has been reviewed with the aim of defining reference corrosion rates to be used in performance and safety assessments. Compared to the last such review done 10 years ago significantly more experimental data and improved understanding of mechanisms and processes are now available. The newly available experimental data formed the basis for the definition of reference rates for all corrosion groups, avoiding the need for expert judgement. The improved understanding of relevant processes allowed a refinement of the criteria used for the selection of studies that are representative of the near-field conditions expected for the Swiss disposal concept. The new selection criteria led to the definition of pH-dependent corrosion rates for more materials, and the avoidance of overconservative and less relevant corrosion studies. A summary of the defined corrosion rates is shown in Tab. 4-1.

Tab. 4-1: Reference corrosion rates for metallic materials predominantly present in the Swiss waste inventory

Materials	Environment	Lower bound	Best estimate	Upper bound
		(nm/a)		
Iron and carbon steel	pH $\geq$ 10.5	3×10^{-2}	6	20
	pH < 10.5	0.3	1×10^3	7.5×10^3
	Compacted bentonite	26	3×10^2	7×10^2
Stainless steel and Ni alloys	pH $\geq$ 10.5	2×10^{-2}	0.6	1.4
	pH < 10.5	0.2	0.4	1
Aluminium	pH $\geq$ 10.5	10	6.4×10^4	3×10^5
	pH < 10.5	7×10^3	7×10^3	7×10^3
Lead	pH $\geq$ 10.5	0	0	0.5
	pH < 10.5			
Zircaloy	pH $\geq$ 10.5	0.4	3	9
	pH < 10.5	1.5	2.3	3
Copper	pH $\geq$ 10.5	0	0	5×10^{-2}
	pH < 10.5	0	0	0
Zinc	pH $\geq$ 10.5	90	1.5×10^2	2×10^2
	pH < 10.5			
Magnesium	pH $\geq$ 10.5	8×10^2	7.6×10^3	2×10^4
	pH < 10.5			

5 References

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App. A Studies excluded from consideration

A.1 Iron and carbon steel

Tab. A-1: Excluded corrosion studies for iron and carbon steel in anoxic and highly alkaline environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Heusler et al. (1958)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Kaesche (1965); Grubitsch et al. (1970); Grubitsch et al. (1979)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Preece et al. (1981); Preece et al. (1983)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Preece (1982)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Arup (1983)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Hansson (1985c)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Hansson (1985a)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Hansson (1985b); Hansson (1987)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Andrade & Page (1986)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Yasuda et al. (1987)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Grauer (1988)	measurement technique criterion
Naish et al. (1990); Naish et al. (1991)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Grauer et al. (1990)	duration criterion
Grauer et al. (1991)	duration criterion
Kreis (1991); Kreis & Simpson (1992)	duration criterion
Naish (1993)	duration, measurement technique and sensitivity criteria
Matsuda et al. (1994)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Schenk, Noack (1995)	duration criterion
Fujisawa et al. (1996)	duration criterion
RWMC (1998); Fujiwara et al. (2000)	duration and measurement technique criteria
RWMC (1998); Kaneko et al. (2004)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Fujisawa et al. (1999)	sensitivity criterion
Naish et al. (1995)	duration criterion
Naish et al. (2001)	duration, temperature and sensitivity criteria
Fujiwara (2002)	duration criterion
Fujiwara (2002); Kaneko et al. (2004)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Mihara et al. (2002)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Nishimura et al. (2003)	duration criterion
Kaneko et al. (2004)	duration and measurement technique criteria

Tab. A-1: Cont.

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Smart et al. (2004a)	measurement technique and sensitivity criteria
Smart et al. (2004a); Smart (2009)	duration, measurement technique, temperature and sensitivity criteria
Honda et al. (2006)	duration criterion
Macdonald et al. (2007)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Azizi et al. (2008)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Azizi et al. (2008); Macdonald et al. (2009a)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Macdonald, Azizi (2008); Macdonald et al. (2009b)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Honda et al. (2009)	duration criterion
Macdonald et al. (2009a)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Macdonald et al. (2009b)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Macdonald et al. (2009b); Macdonald et al. (2010a)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Macdonald et al. (2010b)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Smart et al. (2010)	temperature, duration, measurement technique and sensitivity criteria
Jung et al. April 10-14 (2011)	duration and measurement technique criteria
L'Hostis et al. (2011)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Duffó et al. (2013)	measurement technique criterion
Newmann et al. (2013)	duration criterion
Newmann & Wang (2013)	duration criterion
Smart et al. (2014)	temperature and duration criteria
He, Ahn (15.03.15); He et al. (2017)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Newman et al. (2016)	duration criterion
Chomat et al. (2014); Chomat et al. (2017)	measurement technique criterion
He et al. (2017)	temperature, duration and measurement technique criteria
Smart et al. (2017); Smart et al. (2021)	sensitivity criterion
Kursten et al. (2021); Kursten et al. (2017); Kursten et al. (2013); Kursten et al. (2011)	temperature, duration and sensitivity criteria
Smart et al. (2021)	temperature, duration, sensitivity and measurement technique criteria
Senior et al. (2023a)	temperature criterion
Senior et al. (2023c)	suspected experimental artefact due to lack of passivation

Tab. A-2: Excluded corrosion studies for iron and carbon steel in anoxic and near neutral environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Heusler et al. (1958)	measurement technique criterion
González et al. (1980)	measurement technique criterion
Jelinek & Neufeld (1982)	duration criterion
Grauer (1988)	measurement technique criterion
Marsh & Taylor (1988)	temperature and duration criteria
Schenk (1988); Simpson & Schenk (1989)	duration and temperature criteria
Kreis (1991); Kreis & Simpson (1992)	duration criterion
Schenk, Noack (1995)	duration criterion
JNC (2000)	temperature and duration criteria
Smart et al. (2001)	temperature and duration criteria
Smart et al. (2001); Smart et al. (2002a); Smart et al. (2002b)	duration criterion
Mihara et al. (2002)	duration criterion
Taniguchi et al. (2004)	temperature and duration criteria
Honda et al. (2006)	pH criterion
Macdonald (2006); Macdonald et al. (2007)	measurement technique criterion
Taniguchi et al. (2010)	temperature and duration criteria
Jung et al. April 10-14 (2011)	measurement technique and duration criteria
L'Hostis et al. (2011)	pH criterion
Dobrev et al. (2013)	temperature criterion
Duffó et al. (2013)	measurement technique criterion
Newmann et al. (2013)	duration criterion
Newmann & Wang (2013)	duration criterion
Newman et al. (2016)	duration criterion
Necib et al. (2017)	temperature criterion

Tab. A-3: Excluded corrosion studies for iron and carbon steel embedded in compacted bentonite

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Smart et al. (2004b)	duration criterion
Dobrev et al. (2013)	duration criterion
Smart et al. (2017)	duration criterion
Ogawa et al. (2020)	duration criterion

A.2 Stainless steel and Ni alloys

Tab. A-4: Excluded corrosion studies for stainless steel and Ni alloys in anoxic and highly alkaline conditions

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Yoshida et al. (2013)	no access to reference paper
Sakuragi et al. (2016a)	duration criterion
Sakuragi et al. (2016b)	duration and temperature criteria
Sakuragi (2017b)	measurement technique criterion

Tab. A-5: Excluded corrosion studies for stainless steel and Ni alloys under anoxic and near neutral environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan and Japan Atomic Energy Agency (2007)	no access to reference and lack of experimental details
Sakuragi (2017b)	temperature criterion
Xu et al. (2014)	measurement technique criterion

A.3 Aluminium

Tab. A-6: Excluded corrosion studies for aluminium in anoxic and highly alkaline environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
White (1987)	no access to the reference
Wilding et al. (1988); Wilding & Naish (1988)	no access to the reference
Lee & Wilding (1989)	no access to the reference
Thomas (1993); Thomas & Naish (1994)	no access to the reference and lack of experimental details
Thomas & Naish (1994)	measurement technique criterion
Smart & Blackwood (1998)	measurement technique criterion
Mendibide et al. (2021)	pH criterion
Caes et al. (2022)	measurement technique criterion

A.4 Lead

Tab. A-7: Excluded corrosion studies for lead in anoxic and highly alkaline environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Goodwin & Guenther (1987)	duration and temperature criteria
Smith & Jackson (2013)	expert elicitation
Diomidis (2014)	expert elicitation

A.5 Zircaloy

Tab. A-8: Excluded corrosion studies for zirconium in anoxic and highly alkaline environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Hillner (1977)	rates derived from fitted equation, with most of the original data at elevated temperatures
Hansson (1984); Hansson (1985b)	measurement technique criterion
Rothman (1984)	expert elicitation
Kurashige et al. (1999)	duration criterion
SKB (1999); SKB (2006)	expert elicitation
Wada et al. (1999)	duration criterion
Johnson & McGinnes (2002)	expert elicitation
Kogawa (2003)	measurement technique criterion
Nishimura et al. (2003)	duration criterion
Hélie (2004)	measurement technique criterion
Shoesmith & Zagidulin (2011)	expert elicitation
Sakuragi et al. (2012)	duration criterion
Andra (2013)	measurement technique criterion
Sakuragi et al. (2013)	duration criterion
Kato et al. (2014)	temperature and duration criteria
Bucur et al. (2017)	measurement technique criterion
Sakuragi (2017a)	duration and measurement technique criteria
Caes et al. (2018)	measurement technique criterion
Necib et al. (2018)	measurement technique criterion

Tab. A-9: Excluded corrosion studies for zirconium in anoxic and near neutral environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Johnson (1977)	measurement technique criterion
Rothman (1984)	expert elicitation
Fraker & Harris (1990)	measurement technique criterion
IAEA (1998); IAEA (2006)	measurement technique criterion
SKB (1999); SKB (2006)	expert elicitation
Johnson & McGinnes (2002)	expert elicitation
Shoesmith & Zagidulin (2011)	expert elicitation
Andra (2013)	measurement technique criterion
Sakuragi (2017a)	temperature criterion

A.6 Magnesium

Tab. A-10: Excluded corrosion studies for magnesium in anoxic and highly alkaline environments

Reference	Reason(s) for exclusion
Cronin & Collier (2012)	temperature criterion