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**ISO**  
**7905-1**

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**Plain bearings — Bearing fatigue —**

**Part 1:**

Plain bearings in test rigs and in applications  
under conditions of hydrodynamic lubrication

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*Paliers lisses — Fatigue des paliers —*

*Partie 1: Paliers dans les machines d'essai et dans les applications en  
lubrification hydrodynamique*



Reference number  
ISO 7905-1:1995(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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 7905-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 123, *Plain bearings*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Materials and lubricants, their properties, characteristics, test methods and testing conditions*.

ISO 7905 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Plain bearings — Bearing fatigue*:

- *Part 1: Plain bearings in test rigs and in applications under conditions of hydrodynamic lubrication*
- *Part 2: Test with a cylindrical specimen of a metallic bearing material*
- *Part 3: Test on plain strips of a metallic multilayer bearing material*
- *Part 4: Tests on half-bearings of a metallic multilayer bearing material*

Annex A forms an integral part of this part of ISO 7905. Annex B is for information only.

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# Plain bearings — Bearing fatigue —

## Part 1:

## Plain bearings in test rigs and in applications under conditions of hydrodynamic lubrication

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 7905 describes a method of improving test result comparability by evaluating the stresses in the bearing layers leading to fatigue (see annex A). A similar evaluation is required in practical applications. Because the stresses are the result of pressure build-up in the hydrodynamic film, it is essential to fully state the conditions of operation and lubrication. In addition to dynamic loading, dimensional and running characteristics, the inclusion of the following adequately defines the fatigue system:

- a) under conditions of dynamic loading the minimum bearing oil film thickness as a function of time and location to ensure no excessive local overheating or shearing as a result of mixed lubrication when running in;
- b) the distribution of pressure circumferentially and axially with time under dynamic loading;
- c) from this the resulting stresses in the bearing layers as a function of time and location, especially the maximum alternating stress.

Furthermore, bearing fatigue may be affected by mixed lubrication, wear, dirt, tribochemical reactions and other effects encountered in use thus complicating the fatigue problem. This part of ISO 7905 is therefore restricted to fatigue under full hydrodynamic separation of the bearing surfaces by a lubricant film.

This part of ISO 7905 applies to oil-lubricated plain cylindrical bearings, in test rigs and application running

in conditions of full hydrodynamic lubrication. It comprises dynamic loading in bi-metal and multilayer bearings.

NOTE 1 The number of practical applications with different requirements has led to the development of many bearing test rigs. If the conditions of lubrication employed on these test rigs are not defined in detail, test results from different rigs are generally neither comparable nor applicable in practice. Different test rigs may yield inconsistent ranking between equal materials.

### 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 7905. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 7905 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 468:1982, *Surface roughness — Parameters, their values and general rules for specifying requirements.*

ISO 7902-1:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Hydrodynamic plain journal bearings under steady-state conditions — Circular cylindrical bearings — Part 1: Calculation procedure.*

ISO 7902-2:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Hydrodynamic plain journal bearings under steady-state conditions — Circular cylindrical*

1) To be published.

bearings — Part 2: Functions used in the calculation procedure.

ISO 7902-3:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Hydrodynamic plain journal bearings under steady-state conditions — Circular cylindrical bearings — Part 3: Permissible operational parameters.*

### 3 Objective of testing

In this part of ISO 7905 the objective of testing with plain bearing test rigs, operating in conditions of full hydrodynamic lubrication, is to measure the dynamic load-carrying capacity e.g. the fatigue endurance limit of the bearing layer material in terms of amplitude of stress and number of cycles. This may be presented as a  $\sigma_{el}$ - $N$  curve (endurance limit stress plotted against number of cycles), or as the endurance limit stress for a specified number of cycles. Endurance limit is reached when cracks appear in the bearing surface.

In terms of current understanding, the restriction to full hydrodynamic lubrication is a necessary simplification of the fatigue problem. This implies that the essential running-in of the bearing under test shall be carefully controlled to avoid significant predamage from excessive temperature and frictional shear stress which may cause surface microcracks.

NOTE 2 It should be noted that fatigue testing of bearing materials may be conducted also by utilizing the more classic methods of testing. See parts 2 to 4 of ISO 7905.

## 4 Requirements

### 4.1 Test rigs

In order to define the operating and lubricating conditions, the test rig shall have the following characteristics:

- simple and clear mechanical construction;
- easy dismantling, preferably with an *in situ* bearing inspection capability;
- bearing dimensional stability under test together with resistance to deformation of housing and shaft deflection;
- adequate lubricant supply without impairing oil film pressure development;
- be capable of exceeding the entire range of load/stress and temperature encountered in practice.

### 4.2 Test methods

The test methods shall have the following characteristics:

- the ability to apply specialized measuring techniques for oil film thickness, lubricant temperature, pressure distribution and crack disintegration debris; such techniques for the latter aspect include continuous radio nuclide measurement of wear or X-ray fluorescent analysis of intermittently withdrawn lubricant samples;
- well-defined, experimentally verified hydrodynamic conditions (e.g. the verification of effective viscosity indicative of hydrodynamic behaviour);
- clear distinction between mixed lubrication during running-in and full hydrodynamic lubrication during fatigue testing;
- the stress can traverse the bearing as uniformly as possible (rotating load) in order to detect irregularities in the bearing material;
- simple, theoretically and experimentally reproducible hydrodynamic conditions (i.e. a rotating load produces a hydrodynamic film and pressure distribution equal to a static load).

## 5 Test methods

In order to assure the compatibility of test results from different test rigs and their putting into practice, all parameters controlling the hydrodynamic oil film shall be detailed, starting with test conditions, bearing dimensions, lubricant and other factors influencing hydrodynamic oil film. The following constitute the essential characteristic conditions and parameters for fatigue testing.

### 5.1 Characteristic conditions

#### 5.1.1 Effective running-in procedure

This is designed in order to avoid excessive temperature and frictional shear stress due to heavy asperity contact. The progress of running in may be monitored by measurements of temperature, electrical resistance, impedance or continuous radio nuclide measurement. For guidance  $h_0$  should initially be greater than  $(R_{z,b} + R_{z,s})$ , where  $h_0$  equals the minimum oil film thickness determined by measurement or calculation in accordance with parts 1 to 3 of ISO 7902, and  $R_{z,b}$  and  $R_{z,s}$  are the height of the profile irregularities in ten points of the bearing and counter-

face respectively, in accordance with ISO 468. Polishing during running-in will allow the value of  $h_0$  to be reduced but during fatigue testing it should not be less than the initial value of  $R_{z,s}$ . The running-in procedure progressively reduces the minimum oil film thickness by a combination of reduced oil viscosity through increases in temperature, and by step increases of load. The magnitude of load steps should be controlled by minimizing temperature spikes, excessive radio nuclide wear indication, or excessive duration of zero electrical contact resistance.

NOTE 3 For electrical contact resistance control, the bearing is electrically isolated from the test rig. The electrical scheme should provide for monitoring a 10 mV difference of potential between the shaft and bearing at a supply point with 100  $\Omega$  internal resistance, which drops to 0,01 mV during asperity contact. Load increments should be adjusted so as to minimise the duration of asperity contact.

### 5.1.2 Avoidance of deviation in the geometry of the structural elements of the plain bearing assembly

This is to avoid results being affected and their transferability reduced. Such geometrical discrepancies may include housing distortion, shaft deflection or misalignment and uneven hard rub marks in the plain bearing surface.

### 5.1.3 The effective temperature of the bearing and hydrodynamic film

These represent the temperature distribution uniformity. Alternatively the temperatures of oil inlet, outlet splash in the main loaded area and bearing surface/subsurface are to be measured.

### 5.1.4 The dynamic load amplitude and direction as a function of time

These form the basis of evaluation of peripheral/axial film pressure distribution as a function of time and position on the bearing surface. Alternatively the measurement of pressure distribution may be used. Either method is to be used for evaluating the dynamic stresses in the individual bearing layers in order to find the surface location of maximum stress in terms of the mean and alternating stress at the endurance limit.

NOTE 4 Pressure measurement not affecting hydrodynamic film development and stress by gauges may be carried out by evaporated thin metal film techniques. The measurement should be conducted beforehand under the same conditions, but not during the fatigue testing procedure.

### 5.1.5 The number of load cycles required to effect the first fatigue damage

This damage should be in the form of a crack or cracks (greater than 5 mm in length) or breakout of bearing lining material. Normally  $\sigma_{ei}-N$  curve testing is terminated for practical considerations at  $50 \times 10^6$  stress cycles. The endurance limit stress may be quoted at a specified number of cycles; e.g.  $3 \times 10^6$ ,  $10 \times 10^6$ ,  $25 \times 10^6$  or  $50 \times 10^6$ . A specimen without failure during fatigue testing to a specified endurance should be identified in the report. Due to the scatter of test results normally experienced and the statistical nature of the fatigue limit, it is recommended that the results are evaluated on the basis of statistical methods.

## 5.2 Characteristic information

If the evaluation of the test results up to the endurance limit stress at fixed temperatures, controlled to  $\pm 2$  °C, is not carried out by the investigator himself then it will be necessary to fully report the information below. If the bearing material undergoes change during test (e.g. diffusion or a similar process) this should be documented as additional information (e.g. a metallurgical report). The information is subdivided in such a way that the data requirements may be reduced depending on the degree of detailed evaluation of the end result — the endurance limit stresses.

### 5.2.1 Test rig description

This should comprise the designation, construction, load principles, design limits, lubricant supply including ancillary equipment and the measuring method and arrangements.

### 5.2.2 Test bearing description

This should consist of the following dimensions: bearing, including different layer thicknesses; housing in the diametral and axial directions; clearance, especially under test conditions; surface roughness parameters. Additionally the material designation should be provided comprising chemical composition, manufacturing processes with thermophysical treatment and static strength data including Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio.

### 5.2.3 Test journal description

This should include dimensions, surface roughness parameter, hardness and, if evident, deflection and misalignment values.

### 5.2.4 Specific details of test load

This should include amplitude and direction, as a function of time; frequency and shaft speed, both during running-in and fatigue testing; the duration of the test.

### 5.2.5 Designation of lubricant and supply

This should include: type of lubricant; viscosity-temperature and density-temperature relationships; feed pressure; detailed dimensions and location of supply holes (or grooves); flowrate.

### 5.2.6 Test temperatures description

This should comprise the film temperature in bulk and inlet; outlet splash and representative bearing temperature near the damage zone as close as possible to the surface without disturbing the film pressure development.

All of the above descriptions are necessary for evaluating the hydrodynamic status of the bearing under test. If the hydrodynamic status is evaluated, then the information required is restricted to the following, together with data on bearing material temperature.

### 5.2.7 Test film thickness description

This should consist of film thickness variation with time and location in the bearing and minimum film thickness related to roughness data during running-in and fatigue testing.

### 5.2.8 Test film pressure description

This should contain lubricant film pressure distribution and variation with time and location relative to the bearing surface, in such detail that pressure gradients are indicated with sufficient precision.

### 5.2.9 Description of the dynamic stresses of the test

This should include the distribution with time and location relative to the bearing surface in order to determine the position of maximum fatigue stress by mean and alternating stress at the endurance limit.

The results may be compared with data from other mechanical test methods (see parts 2 to 4 of ISO 7905) by means of the Haigh diagram in which stress amplitude is plotted against mean stress.

### 5.2.10 Other test results

These should comprise a description of the damage; position and extent of cracking; absence or presence of wear or scoring; together with any findings resulting from a metallurgical examination. If measurable wear has occurred, i.e. more than light polishing, when no breakout of lining material has occurred, it shall be concluded that the oil film thickness is inadequate and the conditions of the test shall be changed in order to avoid wear.

## 6 Evaluation of stress in bearing materials

Evaluation of the stress relevant to fatigue is simpler if the hydrodynamic conditions are easily reproduced. The hydrodynamic load condition is one of pure rotation represented by a shaft loaded with out-of-balance masses to reduce shaft deflection. The hydrodynamic film condition is one of a pure wedge which is most exactly defined by calculation. If some permissible assumptions are applied, such as: a cylindrical bearing; no significant misalignment or distortion; an optimum oil supply with film pressure development unimpaired; a fixed relationship of housing dimension, Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio; a predetermination at the representative mean and alternating stress at fixed Sommerfeld numbers and bearing width ratios is possible (see annex A).

In order to cause failure by fatigue in high strength material without wear or seizure it will be necessary to select the hydrodynamic characteristics (clearance, lubricant viscosity and very low surface roughness) to provide sufficient minimum oil film thickness to prevent metallic contact. It may also be possible to perform a similar determination for test rigs with a unidirectional pure sinusoidal load.

## Annex A (normative)

### Evaluation of stress

#### A.1 Evaluation of fatigue stresses

From practical experience and research it is evident that fatigue starts with axial cracks in cylindrical bearings due to alternating tangential stresses. Whilst it is probable that the stresses will vary in the axial as well as the circumferential plane, in the absence of a full three-dimensional solution evaluation may be made of the tangential stresses in the middle plane of the bearing, i.e. a two-dimensional solution.

Under dynamic load which varies not only with time, but also with position on the surface, the different time and location-dependant film pressures produce tangential stresses within the bearing layers. In order to evaluate the stress distribution resulting from momentary pressure dispersion in the middle plane the bearing may be represented by a cylindrical ring including the bearing housing. Loading is by momentary film pressure at the inner running diameter balanced by outer diameter reaction pressures.

The ring model may be treated as different material layers. On using such a system the tangential stresses can be evaluated by several solutions. These are Airy's stress function [equations (1) or (2)] and analytical methods [equations (3), (4), (5), (6) and (7)] including a very exact simplification for very thin overlays. Others could be developed using stress analysis methods such as finite and boundary element techniques. The stress calculation must be applied in an adequate subdivision of the bearing circumference and load cycle to evaluate the mean and alternating stresses in sufficient circumferential locations. Their maximum amplitudes will be responsible for fatigue.

It therefore becomes apparent that fatigue stress calculation under pure rotating load is simpler because an invariable film pressure distribution rotates round the bearing circumference and the resulting stresses likewise rotate in fixed distribution. Thus only one pressure and resulting stress distribution has to be evaluated to determine the maximum compressive and tensile amplitudes at the same circumferential location to obtain mean and alternating stress amplitudes.

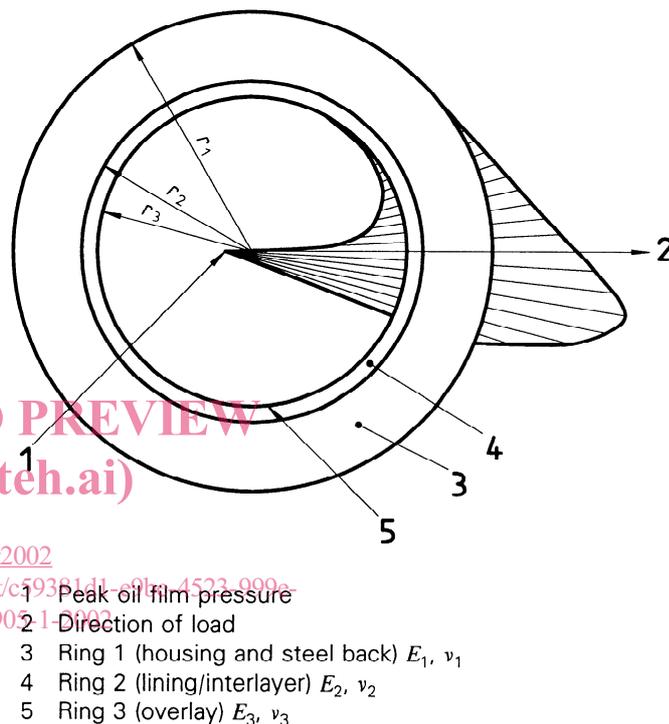


Figure A.1 — Bearing ring model

#### A.2 Symbols

Symbol	Definition	Unit
$b$	bearing width	mm
$d$	diameter of running surface, $d = 2r_3$	mm
$d_H$	housing diameter, $d_H = 2r_1$	mm
$d_H^*$	dimensionless outer diameter of housing, $d_H^* = d_H/d$	—
$d_{H,0}^*$	dimensionless outer diameter, valid for figure A.3, $d_{H,0}^* = d_H/d = 1,45$	—
$E$	Young's modulus	Pa