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Pre-Standard

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Clothes washing machines for household use – Methods for measuring the mechanical action in household washing machines

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

CLOTHES WASHING MACHINES FOR HOUSEHOLD USE – METHODS FOR MEASURING THE MECHANICAL ACTION IN HOUSEHOLD WASHING MACHINES

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IEC-PAS 62473 has been processed by IEC subcommittee 59D: Home laundry appliances, of IEC technical committee 59: Performance of household and similar electrical appliances.

The text of this PAS is based on the following document:	This PAS was approved for publication by the P-members of the committee concerned as indicated in the following document:	
Draft PAS	Report on voting	
59D/305/NP	59D/308/RVN	

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This PAS shall remain valid for an initial maximum period of three years starting from 2007-04. The validity may be extended for a single three-year period, following which it shall be revised to become another type of normative document or shall be withdrawn.

INTRODUCTION

Mechanical action is a main parameter in a washing process. On the positive side, this parameter improves washing performance but can cause damage to textile goods. In today's IEC standards, mechanical action has not been determined as a single parameter in washing processes.

Mechanical action has a high relevance for consumers as well as for manufacturers of washing machines, and therefore a comparison of this parameter (especially in relation or comparison to the achieved washing performance as measured in IEC 60456) in different washing machines is very important.

The object is finally to state and define a method for the determination of mechanical action. Due to the fact that washing programmes cover a wide range of mechanical action (gentle cycles to heavy-duty cotton programmes, single cycles to multiple cycles), three systems

- the thread removal method;
- the dot removal method;
- the fraying method

can cover this area and are at the same time sensitive enough to show smaller differences.

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CLOTHES WASHING MACHINES FOR HOUSEHOLD USE – METHODS FOR MEASURING THE MECHANICAL ACTION IN HOUSEHOLD WASHING MACHINES

1 Scope

This PAS deals with methods for measuring the "gentleness of action" (GoA) of clothes washing machines for household use, with or without heating devices and for cold and/or hot water supply. It is also applicable to appliances for both washing and drying textiles (called washer-dryers) with respect to the washing phase.

"Gentleness of action" defines the influence of washing machine parameters to preversible changes of the textile properties. These changes can be visible or not visible.

Examples of these irreversible changes are:

- loss of tensile tear strengths;
- surface friction (abrasion, pilling);
- dimensional changes (shrinkage or elongation);
- creasing;
- "structural disorientation".

Three methods for different ranges of mechanical action are described to measure and quantify the influences of the machine parameters by measuring one or several of these irreversible changes:

- thread removal method (TRM preferable for low to medium mechanical action);
- dot removal method (DRM preferable for high mechanical action);

fraying method (FM preferable for medium to high mechanical action).

2 Normative references

The following referenced document including all reference documents cited there are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60456, Clothes washing machines for household use – Methods for measuring the performance

3 Terms, definitions and symbols

For the purposes of this document, the terms, definitions and symbols of IEC 60456 apply.

4 General conditions for measurements

4.1 General

The measurements shall generally be carried out on a machine installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, except as required by this document. If there is more than one option for installation, the one chosen for testing shall be reported. If the

machine is new, the machine shall be run for two complete test **cycles** according to IEC 60456.

4.2 Resources and ambient conditions

Electricity and water supply as well as the ambient temperature shall be maintained at specified values stated in IEC 60456.

5 Materials

5.1 Base load

The base loads used shall consist of the items described for cotton, easy-care (synthetics/blends) or polyester base loads according to IEC 60456.

The base loads are adjusted and treated according to IEC 60456

The number of items is specified in Annex B.

5.2 Test materials

5.2.1 Thread removal material

5.2.1.1 Characteristics

The thread removal material is a woven fabric having an open structure to all sides allowing loosening of threads by mechanical impact (see Figure 1).

5.2.1.2 Specification



499 Threads = ~ 29,5 cm



5.2.2 Dot removal material

5.2.2.1 Characteristics

The dot removal material is a stiff fabric with bonded coloured dots which are removed by mechanical impact (see Figure 2).

5.2.2.2 Specification



Size: Basic fabric: Yarn: Yarn count per cm: Dots: Density of dots: Density of dots: Weight 34×34 cm 00 % Cotton, plain woven, white, 125 g/m² Nm 34/34 Warp/Filling 19,5/19,5 100 % PA, coloured 45,5/cm² about 45,5/ cm² about 140 g/m²

Figure 2 – Dot removal specimen

5.2.3 Fraying specimens

5.2.3.1 Characteristics

The fraying specimen is a cotton fabric with five punched holes having an open structure allowing loosening of threads by mechanical impact.

5.2.3.2 Secification



Size: Gircular holes diameter: Fibre content:
Yarn size - linear density: Yarn twist:

Warp strength: Warp yarn count:

Filling yarn count:

35 mm 100 % pure natural cotton of 27 mm minimum length single yarn 30 + 2 tex Z 700 + 25 at least 500 N 25 + 2 threads per cm 25 + 2 threads per cm

 40×40 cm

Figure 3 – Fraying specimen

5.3 Preparation

All test specimens shall be marked with a unique identifying reference, using an indelible marking system.

The thread removal material shall be prepared before use as described in Annex A.

The dot removal specimens have to be measured before use as described in Annex D.

5.4 Amount of test specimens used

For each wash cycle, four test specimens of only one type regardless of test load size and type shall always be used.

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5.5 Detergent

The detergent used for this test shall be reference detergent A* described in IEC 60456

6 Instrumentation and accuracy

Instrumentation and accuracy of IEC 60456 apply.

For the fraying method the following tools are needed:

- magnifying glass;
- black background for assistance in counting threads;
- needle or similar instrument;
- rule calibrated in millimetres.

7 Test procedure

The test is basically run in accordance to the test of washing performance described in IEC 60456 except that, additionally, the test specimens according to this document are added to the load in the drum according to the following description.

7.1 Loading

The way of loading the machine influences the results. To get reproducible results it is necessary to define the way of loading the machine and to follow the instructions accurately.

The loading scheme of IEC 60456 is only applicable for one type of washing machine (horizontal axis). The loading procedure as described in Annex B applies to all types of washing machines and will probably be included in a future edition of IEC 60456.

The test specimens for measuring the gentleness of action according to this procedure are added as described in Annex B.

The test specimeps should be placed as flat as possible.

The location of each mechanical action specimen shall be recorded (using identifying reference – number of test specimen)

7.2 Unloading and drying of test specimens

Mechanical action specimens shall be carefully removed from the load, taking care not to pull, stretch or distort the test specimens.

Base load as well as soil strips shall be dried according to the procedure described in IEC 60456.

Do not dry the mechanical action test specimens in a tumble dryer. The mechanical action test specimens are dried by laying them out flat. Take care not to apply any further mechanical action. If possible, the dot removal test specimens and the fraying test specimens should be carefully flattened by hand to avoid wrinkles.

7.3 Repeating of test procedure

The test procedure is run according to IEC 60456. A test series consists of five test runs.

For each test run new mechanical action test specimens shall be used.

NOTE It is possible to use the same specimens for more than one test run, especially for very low mechanical action.