

INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

NORME INTERNATIONALE

Environmental testing –
Part 2-69: Tests – Test Te/Tc: Solderability testing of electronic components
and printed boards by the wetting balance (force measurement) method

Essais d'environnement –
Partie 2-69: Essais – Essai Te/Tc: Essai de brasabilité des composants
électroniques et cartes imprimées par la méthode de la balance de mouillage
(mesure de la force)



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IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 919 02 11
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
info@iec.ch
www.iec.ch

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and printed boards by the wetting balance (force measurement) method

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Essais d'environnement –
Partie 2-69: Essais – Essai Te/Tc: Essai de brasabilité des composants
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(mesure de la force)

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

COMMISSION
ELECTROTECHNIQUE
INTERNATIONALE

ICS 19.040; 31.190

ISBN 978-2-8322-3994-0

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

**Part 2-69: Tests – Test Te/Tc: Solderability testing of
electronic components and printed boards
by the wetting balance (force measurement) method**

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International Standard IEC 60068-2-69 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 91: Electronics assembly technology.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition published in 2007 as well as the second edition of IEC 60068-2-54 published in 2006 and constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

- integration of IEC 60068-2-54;
- inclusion of tests of printed boards;
- inclusion of new component types, and updating test parameters for the whole component list;

- inclusion of a new gauge R & R test protocol to ensure that the respective wetting balance equipment is correctly calibrated.

The text of this standard is based on the following documents:

FDIS	Report on voting
91/1405/FDIS	91/1426/RVD

Full information on the voting for the approval of this International Standard can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 60068 series, under the general title *Environmental testing*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

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ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING –

Part 2-69: Tests – Test Te/Tc: Solderability testing of electronic components and printed boards by the wetting balance (force measurement) method

1 Scope

This part of IEC 60068 outlines test Te/Tc, the solder bath wetting balance method and the solder globule wetting balance method to determine, quantitatively, the solderability of the terminations. Data obtained by these methods are not intended to be used as absolute quantitative data for pass–fail purposes.

The procedures describe the solder bath wetting balance method and the solder globule wetting balance method. They are applicable to components and printed boards with metallic terminations and metallized solder pads.

This document provides the measurement procedures for solder alloys both with and without lead (Pb).

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2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 60068-1, *Environmental testing – Part 1: General and guidance*

IEC 60068-2-2, *Environmental testing – Part 2-2: Tests – Test B: Dry heat*

IEC 60068-2-20:2008, *Environmental testing – Part 2-20: Tests – Test T: Test methods for solderability and resistance to soldering heat of devices with leads*

IEC 60068-2-66, *Environmental testing – Part 2: Test methods – Test Cx: Damp heat, steady state (unsaturated pressurized vapour)*

IEC 61190-1-3:2007, *Attachment materials for electronic assembly – Part 1-3: Requirements for electronic grade solder alloys and fluxed and non-fluxed solid solders for electronic soldering applications*

IEC 61190-1-3:2007/AMD1:2010

ISO 683 (all parts), *Heat-treatable steels, alloy steels and free-cutting steels*

ISO 6362 (all parts), *Wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys – Extruded rods/bars, tubes and profiles*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in IEC 60068-1 and IEC 60068-2-20 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

4 General description of the method

4.1 General

The user should note that the test method specified in this document is intended to provide consistent and discriminatory data between various test sites. Hence the choice of alloy, temperature and flux shall be controlled.

Using this test method to control a production process is encouraged. However, as each production process will employ different alloys, temperatures and fluxes, such test results shall be agreed upon between user and supplier. In case of a dispute, the procedures of this document shall prevail.

NOTE Information regarding wetting balance for SMD solderability testing is described in Annex B.

4.2 Components

The test specimen shall be a sample from the intended production batch. The test specimen is mounted into a suitable holder that is suspended from a sensitive balance. Liquid flux is then applied to the specimen that is brought into contact with the cleaned surface of the liquid solder within a solder bath, or the apex of a solder globule. The solder in either case is at a controlled temperature, and the lead or termination under test is immersed to the prescribed depth.

[IEC 60068-2-69:2017](https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/e68969aa-37cf-4c19-9d1f-9acd1d867dcd/iec-60068-2-69-2017)

4.3 Printed boards

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The test specimen should be a representative test specimen, a portion of the printed board being tested, or a whole board if within size limits, such that an immersion depth defined in the individual method is possible. Test specimens may be used for rigid board surface solderability and plated-through-hole solderability.

Liquid flux is then applied to the specimen that is brought into contact with the cleaned surface of a solder bath, or the apex of a solder globule, that is at a controlled temperature and immersed to the prescribed depth.

4.4 Measurement

The resultant forces, measured in mN, of buoyancy and surface tension acting upon the immersed termination are detected by a transducer and converted into a signal that is continuously monitored as a function of time, and recorded and displayed on a computer screen.

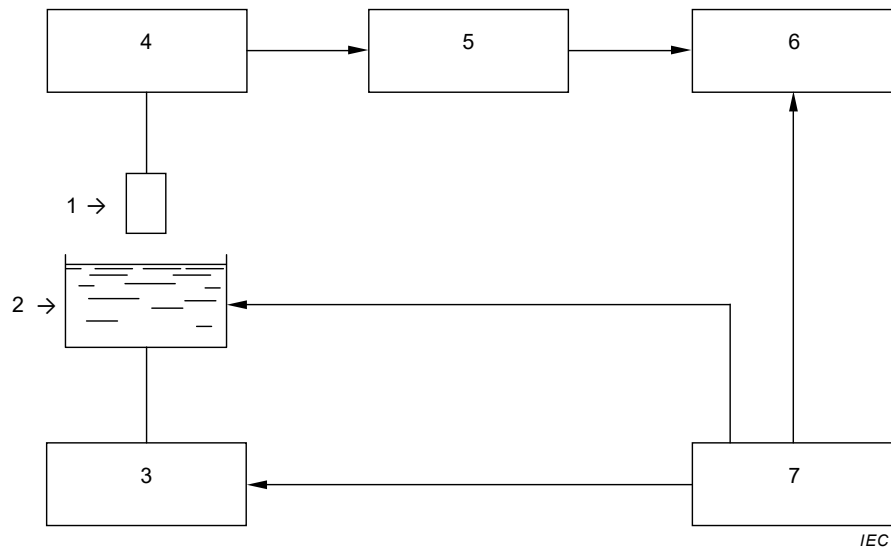
The wetting speed and the extent of wetting are derived from the force against time curve. The trace may be compared with that derived from a perfectly wetted specimen of the same nature and dimensions.

5 Description of the test apparatus

Figure 1 and Figure 2 show a suitable arrangement for the test apparatus.

The apparatus specifications are given in Annex A.

The specimen is suspended from a sensitive balance and a mechanism used to either raise the solder to meet the specimen or lower the specimen into the solder. After conditioning, the transducer signal is passed to a computer, where the force against time curve may be displayed and analysed.

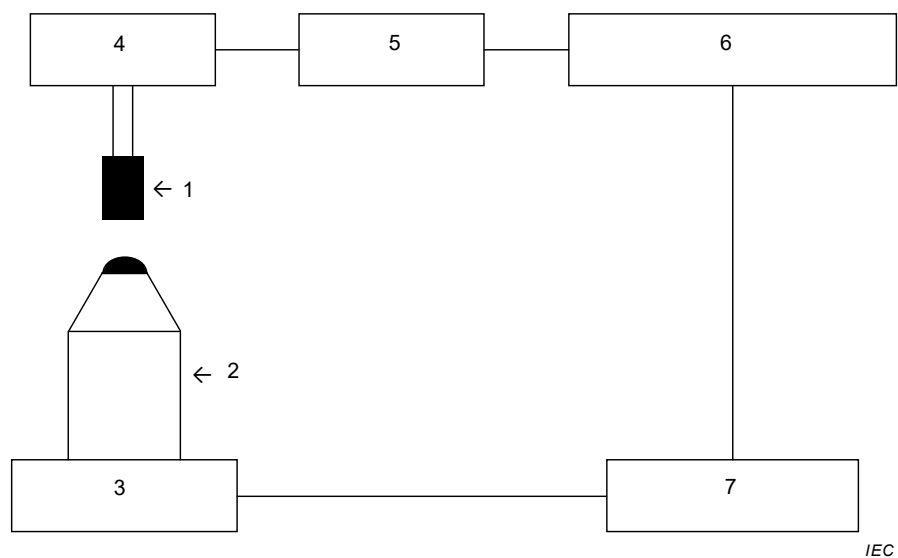


Key

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Specimen | 2 Solder bath |
| 3 Solder bath lifting mechanism | 4 Balance and transducer |
| 5 Signal conditioner | 6 Computer |
| 7 Control box | |

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Figure 1 – Arrangement for the test apparatus (solder bath wetting balance method)



Key

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Specimen | 2 Globule block |
| 3 Lift mechanism | 4 Balance and transducer |
| 5 Signal conditioner | 6 Computer |
| 7 Control box | |

Figure 2 – Arrangement for the test apparatus (solder globule wetting balance method)

6 Preparation of specimens

6.1 Cleaning

Unless otherwise specified, the specimen shall be tested in the as-received condition and care should be taken to ensure that no part of the surface to be tested becomes contaminated, particularly by contact with the fingers, during the preparation and handling of the specimen.

If required by the component specification, the specimen may be cleaned by immersion in a neutral organic solvent at room temperature. The specimen should be allowed to dry in air before testing. No other cleaning is permitted.

6.2 Preconditioning

If required by the component specification, the component may be subjected to preconditioning before testing. This shall be performed for 4 h at 155 °C unless otherwise agreed between user and supplier (Table 1, condition F).

In the past, it had been practice to use the term accelerated ageing which, as given in IEC 60068-2-20:2008, 4.1.1, has six alternative conditions that may be used as an alternative if agreed between user and supplier:

A – ageing 1a of IEC 60068-2-20;

B – ageing 1b of IEC 60068-2-20;

C – ageing 1b of IEC 60068-2-20, but for 8 h;

D – ageing 1b of IEC 60068-2-20, but for 16 h;

E – ageing 4 of IEC 60068-2-20;

F – ageing 3a of IEC 60068-2-20.

IEC 60068-2-69:2017
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/e68969aa-37cf-4c19-9d1f-92cd1d867dcd/iec-60068-2-69-2017>

Refer to Table 1, for preconditioning.

Table 1 – Preconditioning

Condition category	Precondition type	Exposure parameters	Use recommendation	Applicability by finish
A	Steam	1 h ± 5 min	Preferred	Non-tin and non-tin alloy containing finishes
B		4 h ± 10 min	Preferred	Non-tin and non-tin alloy containing finishes
C		8 h ± 15 min	Optional	Non-tin and non-tin alloy containing finishes
D		16 h ± 30 min	Optional	Non-tin and non-tin alloy containing finishes
E	Unsaturated pressurized vapour (120 °C, 85 % RH)	4 h ± 10 min	Preferred	All finishes
F	155 °C dry bake	4 h ± 15 min	Preferred	All finishes

7 Materials

7.1 Solder

7.1.1 General

The solder to be used for both the solder bath and for the solder globule wetting balance test shall be as specified in 7.1.2 or 7.1.3.

7.1.2 Solder alloy containing lead

The solder shall be Sn60Pb40A, Sn63Pb37A or Sn62Pb36Ag02B (refer to the IEC 61190-1-3 alloy name).

NOTE The presence of silver in the solder reduces the dissolution effect on silver containing metallization on components and therefore can be used when required by the relevant component specification.

7.1.3 Lead-free solder alloy

The preferred alloy composition to be used should consist of either a mass fraction of 3,0 % Ag, 0,5 % Cu, 96,5 % Sn (Sn96,5Ag3Cu,5) or 0,7 % Cu, 99,3 % Sn (Sn99,3Cu,7). (Refer to IEC 61190-1-3 for the alloy name.)

NOTE Sn96,5Ag3Cu,5 is also known as SAC 305.

Other lead-free solder alloys may be used upon agreement between user and supplier.

7.1.4 Solder contamination control

The solder in solder baths used for solderability testing shall be chemically or spectrographically analyzed or replaced each 30 operating days. The levels of contamination and Sn content shall be within those shown in Table 2. The intervals between analyses may be lengthened if the test results indicate that the contamination limits are not being approached. The composition of the lead-free solder, including contamination levels, shall be maintained during testing with the silver and copper element levels adjusted for alloy requirements.

An operating day consists of any eight-hour period, or any portion thereof, during which the solder is liquefied and used. If contamination exceeds the limits specified in Table 2, then the solder shall be changed and the intervals between analysis shall be shortened. A sampling plan shall be developed, implemented, and documented. It shall also indicate the process control of the solder contamination.

Table 2 – Maximum limits of solder bath contaminants

Contaminant	Maximum mass fraction contaminant limit	
	SnPb alloys ^{a, b} %	Lead-free alloys ^{c, d} %
Copper	0,300	1,100
Gold	0,200	0,200
Cadmium	0,005	0,005
Zinc	0,005	0,005
Aluminium	0,006	0,006
Antimony	0,500	0,200
Iron	0,020	0,020
Arsenic	0,030	0,030
Bismuth	0,250	0,250
Silver	0,100	4,000
Nickel	0,010	0,050
Lead	N/A	0,100

^a The tin content of the solder shall be maintained within $\pm 1,5$ % of the nominal alloy being used. Tin content shall be tested at the same frequency as testing for copper/gold contamination. The balance of the bath shall be lead and/or the items listed above.

^b The total of copper, gold, cadmium, zinc, and aluminium contaminants shall not exceed 0,4 %. Not applicable to lead-free alloys.

^c The tin content of the solder shall be maintained within ± 1 % of the nominal alloy being used. Tin content shall be tested at the same frequency as testing for copper/silver concentration. The balance of the bath shall be the items listed above.

^d Maximum contamination limits are applicable for Sn96,5Ag3Cu,5. Other lead-free solder alloy contamination limits may be used upon agreement between user and vendor.

7.1.5 Solder mass for solder globule wetting balance method

For the solder globule wetting balance method, the solder shall be in the form of pellets or cut wire with a mass of 200 mg \pm 10 mg for use on a 4 mm diameter pin globule support block, 100 mg \pm 10 mg for use on a 3,2 mm diameter pin support block, 25 mg \pm 2,5 mg for use on a 2 mm diameter pin globule support block, and 5 mg \pm 0,5 mg for use on a 1 mm diameter globule support block. Refer to Table 3.

Table 3 – Globule and pellet sizes

Pin diameter mm	Pellet mass mg	Pellet mass tolerance mg
1	5	$\pm 0,5$
2	25	$\pm 2,5$
3,2	100	± 10
4	200	± 10

A new solder pellet shall be used for each test except in the case of a step and repeat technique. Separate dedicated globule support blocks should be used for tin-lead and lead-free alloys to avoid cross-contamination. Refer to Annex C regarding dimple globule.

7.2 Flux

7.2.1 Rosin based flux

The preferred fluxes for the test are rosin based as shown below. See Table 4 for the details.

- a) Non-activated
- b) Low activated
- c) High activated

Table 4 – Rosin based flux compositions

Constituent ^a	Composition by mass fraction %		
	Non-activated	Low activated	High activated
Colophony	25 ± 0,5	25 ± 0,5	25 ± 0,5
Diethylammonium hydrochloride (CAS No. 660-68-4)	None	0,15 ± 0,01	0,39 ± 0,01
2-propanol (Isopropyl alcohol) (CAS No. 67-63-0) or ethyl alcohol (CAS No. 64-17-5) as an alternative	75 ± 0,5	74,85 ± 0,5	74,61 ± 0,5
Mass of chlorine of solids ^b	0	0,2	0,5

^a See IEC 60068-2-20:2008, Annex B for specification.

^b Expressed as free chlorine based on the colophony content.

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7.2.2 Flux maintenance (standards.iteh.ai)

The flux to be used for testing should be taken from the supplied container and poured into a small cup (beaker). Flux applied for testing should be taken from this cup. After use the unused flux left in the cup should be discarded.

7.2.3 Test flux selection criteria

Refer to Clauses B.5 and B.8 for information regarding the adoption and use of these test fluxes.

8 Procedure

8.1 Test temperature

8.1.1 Solder alloy containing lead

Solder temperature prior to test and during test shall be 235 °C ± 3 °C.

8.1.2 Lead-free solder alloy

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant specification, the temperature of the solder prior to the test shall be 245 °C ± 3 °C for Sn96,5 Ag3 Cu,5 and 250 °C ± 3 °C for Sn99,3 Cu,7 alloys.

8.2 Test procedure

8.2.1 Applicable test procedure

Subclause 8.2.2 applies for leaded non-SMD.

Subclause 8.2.2 or 8.2.3 applies for non-leaded SMD or leaded SMD as applicable.

Subclause 8.2.4 applies for printed boards.