
**Paper and board — Sampling to determine
average quality**

Papier et carton — Échantillonnage pour déterminer la qualité moyenne

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 186 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Test methods and quality specifications for paper and board*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 186:1994), which has been technically revised.

Annex A forms a normative part of this International Standard.

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Paper and board — Sampling to determine average quality

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method of obtaining a representative sample from a lot of paper or board, including solid and corrugated fibreboard (see ISO 4046), for testing to determine whether or not its average quality complies with set specifications.

It defines the conditions which apply when sampling is carried out to resolve disputes between buyer and seller relating to a defined lot of paper or board, which has been or is being delivered.

NOTE 1 If less than 50 % of the lot is available for sampling, then sampling in terms of this International Standard will be invalid in the absence of agreement to the contrary.

The method is unsuitable for determining the variability within a lot.

In cases where International Standards make reference to sampling according to this standard but where such sampling is impossible, impractical or inappropriate, and where no dispute is involved, guidance is given in normative annex A.

NOTE 2 Information on the preparation of test pieces is given in the appropriate International Standards.

2 Normative reference

The following normative document contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the normative document indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 4046, *Paper, board, pulp and related terms — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 lot

aggregate of paper or board of a single kind with specified characteristics produced under conditions that are presumed uniform, and available for sampling at one time

NOTE A lot comprises one or more nominally identical units. Where the material to be tested has already been incorporated into a manufactured article (for example a packing case), the lot is the aggregate of such articles of a single kind, of specified characteristics.

3.2
unit

component of a lot which may be in the form of a reel, a bale, a bundle, a parcel, the contents of a packing case, a pallet load, etc.

See Figure 1.

3.3
sheet

area of paper or board taken from the selected units

See Figure 1.

3.4
specimen

area of paper or board cut to given dimensions, from the sheets (or manufactured articles)

See Figure 1.

3.5
sample

aggregate of all the specimens taken from the lot to provide information on the average quality of the lot and possibly serve as a basis for a decision on the lot

See Figure 1.

3.6
test piece

piece or pieces of paper or board on which the measurement is carried out in accordance with the stipulations of the method of test

See Figure 1.

NOTE The test piece is generally taken from a specimen. In some instances, the test piece may be the specimen itself, or several specimens.

3.7
selected at random

taken in such a way that each part of the whole has an equal chance of being selected

4 Principle

Selection of the sheets at random from production units selected at random from a lot of paper or board. Further subdivision and combination of these sheets to provide the specimens of the sample from which the test area or test pieces will be taken.