INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 6874

Second edition
2005-08-15

Dentistry — Polymer-based pit and fissure sealants

Art dentaire — Produits dentaires à base de polymères pour comblement des puits et fissures

Reference number
ISO 6874:2005(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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 2.

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 document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 6874 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Filling and restorative materials*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 6874:1988), and in comparison with the first edition the classification and the test for depth of cure have been aligned with ISO 4049:2000. It is intended to include sealant materials within the scope of ISO 4049 at its the next revision. The requirements and tests for uncured film thickness, sensitivity to ambient light and curing time for Type 2 sealants have been deleted from this edition of ISO 6874.

Introduction

The efficacy of pit and fissure sealants for the prevention of dental caries is widely accepted. The polymer-based materials intended for this purpose and covered by this International Standard harden by a free-radical polymerization reaction that is either initiated by mixing components or by external energy, e.g. visible light.

Specific qualitative and quantitative requirements for freedom from biological hazard are not included in this International Standard. However, when assessing possible biological or toxicological hazards, it is recommended to refer to ISO 10993-1 and ISO 7405.

Dentistry — Polymer-based pit and fissure sealants

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies requirements and test methods for polymer-based materials intended for sealing pits and fissures in teeth.

This International Standard covers both self-cured and external-energy-activated materials.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents 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.

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

3 Classification

For the purposes of this International Standard, polymer-based pit and fissure sealants are classified, according to the method of curing, as follows:

— **Class 1**: Materials whose setting is effected by mixing an initiator and activator (“self-curing” materials).

— **Class 2**: Materials whose setting is effected by the application of energy from an external source, such as visible light (“external-energy-activated” materials).

4 Requirements

4.1 Biocompatibility

See ISO 7405 and ISO 10993-1 for guidance on biocompatibility.

4.2 Physical properties

4.2.1 Working time, Class 1 sealant

The working time for Class 1 sealants, determined in accordance with 6.4, shall not be less than 40 s.

4.2.2 Setting time, Class 1 sealant

The setting time for Class 1 sealants, determined in accordance with 6.5, shall not be greater than 5 min.

4.2.3 Depth of cure, Class 2 sealant

The depth of cure for Class 2 sealants, determined in accordance with 6.6, shall not be less than 1,5 mm. If the material is supplied in more than one shade, each shade shall comply with this requirement.

5 Sampling

The test sample shall consist of a retail package, or packages, from the same batch containing sufficient material (a minimum of 20 g) to carry out the specified tests and repeat tests, if necessary.

6 Test methods

6.1 Inspection

Inspect visually to check that requirements specified in Clause 7 have been met.

6.2 Test conditions

Unless specified otherwise by the manufacturer, prepare and test all specimens at (23 ± 1) °C. Control the relative humidity to ensure that it remains greater than 30 % at all times. If the material was refrigerated for storage, allow it to attain (23 ± 1) °C before use.

For the preparation of Class 2 materials, reference should be made to the manufacturer's instructions [see 7.3 e) and h)] that state the external energy source or sources recommended for the materials to be tested. Care shall be taken to ensure that the source is in a satisfactory operating condition.

Reference may also be made to ISO 10650 (all parts).

6.3 Preparation of test specimens

Mix or otherwise prepare the material in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the test conditions specified in 6.2.

6.4 Working time, Class 1 sealant

6.4.1 Apparatus

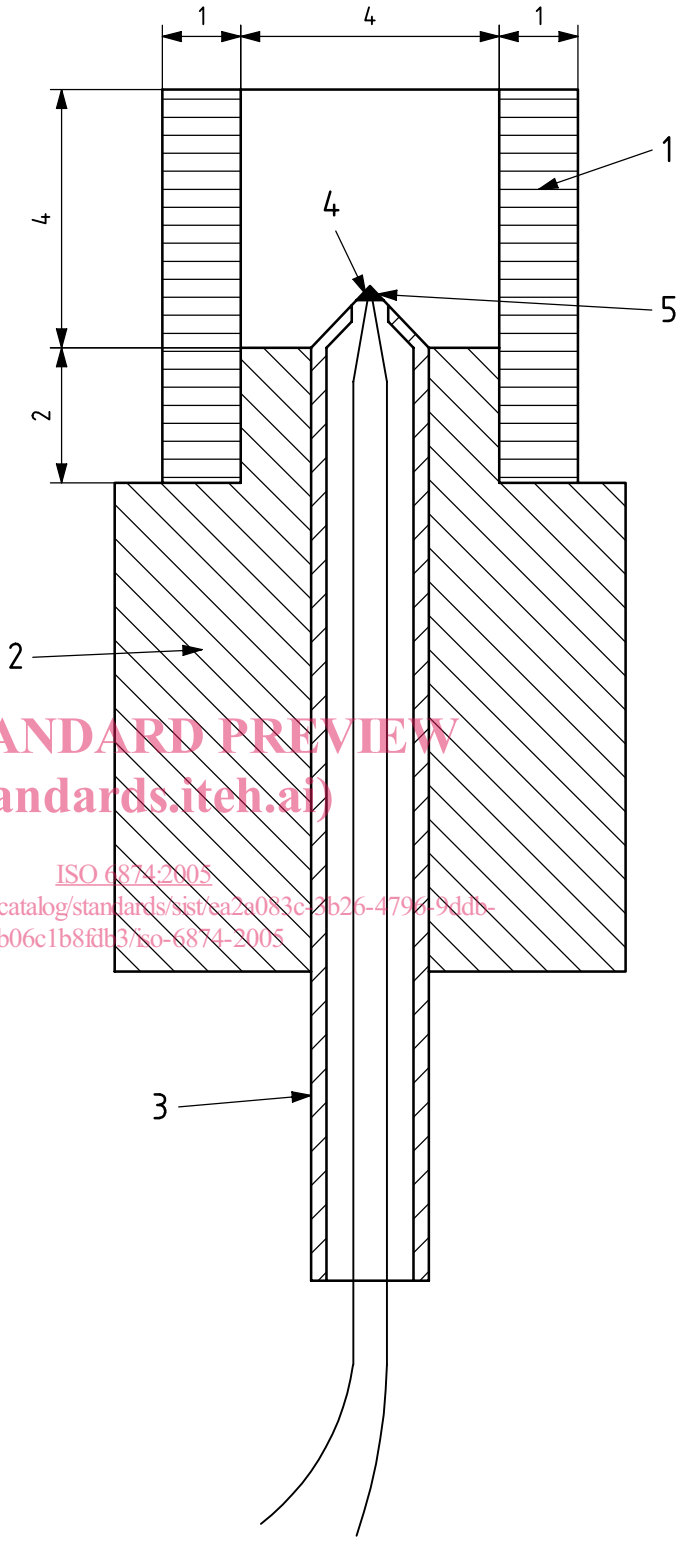
6.4.1.1 Thermometry apparatus, as shown in Figure 1, consisting of a piece of polyethylene (or similar material) tubing (1), located on a block of polyamide or similar material (2), which has a hole into which is inserted a stainless steel tube (3), containing a stabilized thermocouple (4).

The polyethylene tube (1) is 6 mm long, 4 mm in internal diameter and has a wall thickness of 1 mm. The locating part of block (2) is 4 mm in diameter and 2 mm high. When assembled the two components form a specimen well 4 mm high × 4 mm in diameter. In order to facilitate removal of the specimen after testing, the thermocouple (4) has a conical tip consisting of silver soldering (5) that protrudes 1 mm into the base of the specimen well. The tolerances on the above-mentioned dimensions are ± 0,1 mm.

The thermocouple consists of wires (0,25 ± 0,05) mm in diameter, made of a material (e.g. copper/constantan) capable of registering rapid temperature changes in a specimen of setting material to an accuracy of 0,1 °C. The thermocouple is connected to an instrument (e.g. voltmeter or chart recorder) capable of recording the temperature to that accuracy.

A prefabricated thermocouple of similar size and performance may be substituted.

Dimensions in millimetres



Key

1 polyethylene tubing
2 polyamide block
3 stainless steel tube
4 thermocouple
5 silver soldering

Figure 1 — Apparatus for determination of working and setting times

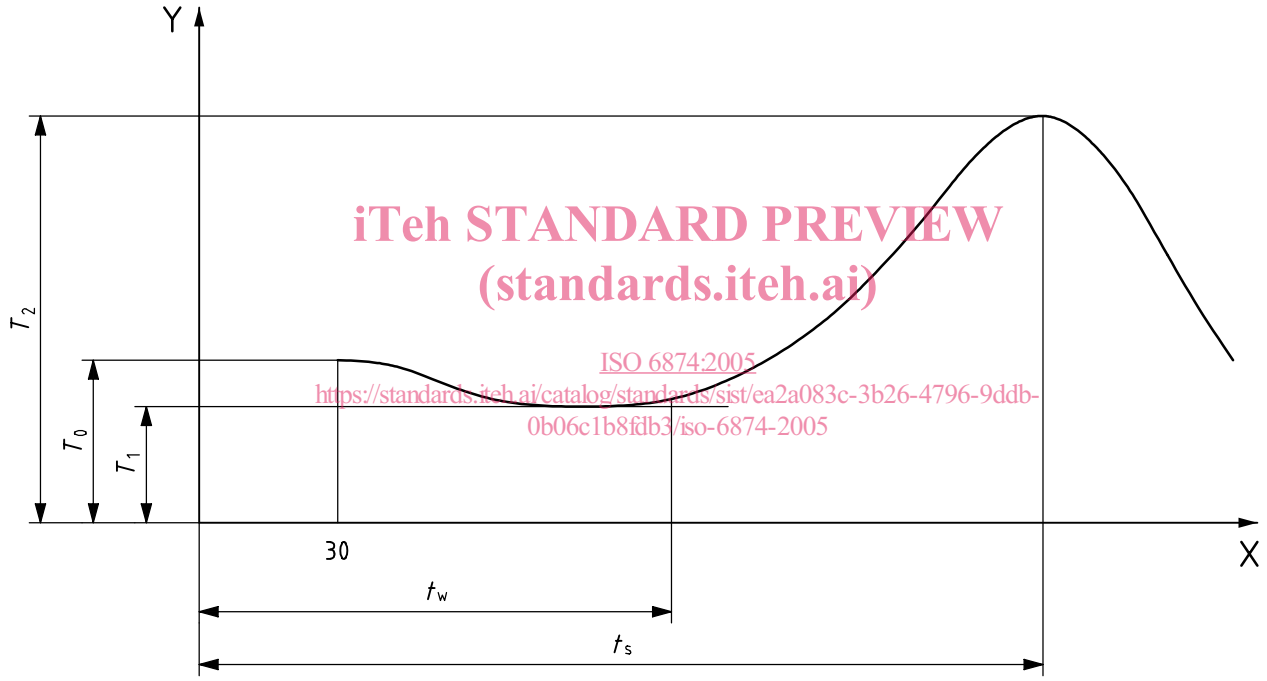
6.4.2 Procedure

Prepare the sealant in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (see 7.3) and start timing from the moment mixing is begun. Maintain the mould at (23 ± 1) °C. Thirty seconds after the start of mixing, place the mixed sealant in the mould and record the temperature, T_0, of the sealant. Maintain the apparatus at (23 ± 1) °C and continuously record the temperature of the sealant until the peak temperature is reached.

A typical recording trace is shown in Figure 2. As soon as the sealant is inserted into the mould, the temperature may fall slightly until it becomes steady at T_1 and then starts to increase. The point at which the temperature begins to increase denotes the start of the setting reaction and, therefore, the end of the working time. The results are extremely temperature-dependent and slight variations within the permitted temperature range will cause variations of several seconds.

Record the working time, t_w, from the start of mixing until the temperature starts to increase.

Carry out five determinations.



Key

X time, in seconds
Y temperature
T_0 temperature at time of insertion
T_1 temperature after a slight drop immediately after time of insertion
T_2 peak temperature
t_w time of insertion to the start of the setting reaction at T_1, denoted as the working time
t_s time of insertion to the time of the peak temperature, denoted as the setting time

Figure 2 — Typical recording trace showing temperature changes in time for determination of working and setting times

6.4.3 Treatment of results

Record the working times and report the following.

a) If at least four of the times obtained are equal to or longer than 40 s, the material is deemed to have complied with the requirement specified in 4.2.1.

b) If three or more of the times are shorter than 40 s, the material is deemed to have failed.

c) If only three of the times are equal to or longer than 40 s, repeat the whole test. All the specimens in the second series shall comply with the requirement, otherwise the material is deemed to have failed the whole test.

6.5 Setting time, Class 1 sealant

6.5.1 Apparatus

6.5.1.1 **Thermometry apparatus**, as specified in 6.4.1.1.

6.5.2 Procedure

Repeat the procedure described in 6.4.2, but maintain the apparatus at (37 ± 1) °C in air.

Record the time elapsed between the start of mixing and the peak temperature, T_2, as the setting time, t_s.

Carry out five determinations.

6.5.3 Treatment of results

Record the setting times and report the following.

a) If at least four of the times obtained are equal to or shorter than 5 min, the material is deemed to have complied with the requirement specified in 4.2.2.

b) If three or more of the times are longer than 5 min, the material is deemed to have failed.

c) If only three of the times are equal to or shorter than 5 min, repeat the whole test. All the specimens in the second series shall comply with the requirement, otherwise the material is deemed to have failed the whole test.

6.6 Depth of cure, Class 2 sealant

6.6.1 Apparatus

6.6.1.1 **Stainless steel mould**, for the preparation of a cylindrical specimen, 6 mm long and 4 mm in diameter.

A mould release agent that does not interfere with the setting reaction, for example a 3 % solution of polyvinyl ether wax in hexane, may be used to facilitate removal of the specimen.

6.6.1.2 **Two glass slides/plates**, each of sufficient area to cover one side of the mould.

A standard glass microscope slides may be used.

6.6.1.3 **White filter paper**.

6.6.1.4 **Film**, transparent to the activating radiation, (50 ± 30) µm thick, e.g. polyester.