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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 302

Second edition
2004-07-01

Pulps — Determination of Kappa number

Pâtes — Détermination de l'indice Kappa

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	2
5 Reagents and materials	2
6 Apparatus and equipment	3
7 Sampling and preparation of sample	3
7.1 Sampling	3
7.2 Sample preparation	3
8 Procedure	3
8.1 General	3
8.2 Blank	4
8.3 Determination	4
9 Calculations	6
9.1 Kappa number 5 to 100	6
9.2 Kappa number 1 to 5	7
9.3 Expression of results	8
9.4 Example of calculation	8
10 Precision	8
10.1 Reference pulp	8
10.2 Repeatability	8
10.3 Reproducibility	9
11 Test report	9
Bibliography	10

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 302 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Test methods and quality specifications for pulps*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 302:1981), which has been technically revised.

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Pulps — Determination of Kappa number

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of the Kappa number of pulp. The Kappa number is an indication of the lignin content or bleachability of pulp.

This International Standard is applicable to all kinds of chemical pulps and semi-chemical pulps within the Kappa number range 1 to 100. For pulps with a Kappa number exceeding 100, use the chlorine-consumption procedure (ISO 3260) to describe the degree of delignification.

To achieve the greatest precision and accuracy, the sample size should be adjusted so that the consumption of permanganate falls between 20 % and 60 % of the amount added.

NOTE There is no general and unambiguous relationship between the Kappa number and the lignin content of pulp. The relationship varies according to the wood species and delignification procedure. All compounds oxidized by KMnO_4 , not only lignin, will increase the consumption of KMnO_4 , and thereby increase the Kappa number (see [7]). If the Kappa number is to be used to derive an index of pulp lignin content, specific relationships will have to be developed for each pulp type.

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2 Normative references

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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 638, *Pulps — Determination of dry matter content*

ISO 7213, *Pulps — Sampling for testing*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

oxidation capacity

relative amount of permanganate oxidized (expressed as MnO_2) of the total oxidation capacity

3.2

total oxidation capacity

oxidation capacity (permanganate consumption) when all permanganate is oxidized into Mn^{2+}

3.3.

Kappa number of pulp

number of millilitres of 0,02 mol/l potassium permanganate solution consumed under the specified conditions by one gram of pulp (calculated on an oven-dry basis)

NOTE The results are corrected to a value corresponding to that obtained when 50 % of the total oxidation capacity of the permanganate is consumed in the test at a temperature of 25 °C.

ISO 302:2004(E)

4 Principle

Disintegrated pulp is allowed to react with a specified amount of potassium permanganate solution for a given time. The amount of pulp is chosen so that about 50 % of the total oxidation capacity of the permanganate is left unconsumed at the end of the reaction time.

The main reactions are as follows:

- 1) Residual lignin + other oxidable compounds + $\text{MnO}_4^- + 4\text{H}^+ \rightarrow$ oxidized lignin + other oxidized compounds + excess $\text{MnO}_4^- + \text{MnO}_2 + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- 2) $2\text{MnO}_4^- + 10\text{I}^- + 16\text{H}^+ \rightarrow 2\text{Mn}^{2+} + 5\text{I}_2 + 8\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- 3) $\text{MnO}_2 + 4\text{H}^+ + 2\text{I}^- \rightarrow \text{Mn}^{2+} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} + \text{I}_2$
- 4) $2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-} + \text{I}_2 \rightarrow \text{S}_4\text{O}_6^{2-} + 2\text{I}^-$

NOTE By theoretical calculation and experimental observation, a consumption of 60 % (mass/mass) is actually the endpoint of the consumption for the permanganate ions, at which point the ions have been reduced to MnO_2 . Further oxidation, performed by means of MnO_2 should be considered as "out of range". By adding potassium iodide solution, the reaction is terminated and the free iodine is titrated with sodium thiosulfate solution. The value so obtained is corrected to 50 % consumption of the total oxidation capacity of permanganate.

5 Reagents and materials

Use only chemicals of recognized analytical grade and only distilled water or water of equivalent purity.

5.1 Sulfuric acid, $c(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4) = 2,0 \text{ mol/l}$.

Add with caution 112 ml of sulfuric acid, H_2SO_4 , of density 1,84 g/ml, to about 600 ml of water. Allow to cool and dilute to 1 litre with water.

5.2 Potassium iodide, $c(\text{KI}) = 1 \text{ mol/l}$.

Dissolve 166 g of potassium iodide, KI, in a 1 000 ml volumetric flask and fill up to the mark with water.

5.3 Potassium permanganate, $c(\text{KMnO}_4) = (0,020 \pm 0,001) \text{ mol/l}$.

Dissolve 3,161 g of potassium permanganate, KMnO_4 , in a 1 000 ml volumetric flask and fill up to the mark with water.

NOTE Fresh solution is stable for at least 6 months if stored in a dark bottle.

5.4 Sodium thiosulfate, $c(\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3) = (0,200 0 \pm 0,000 5) \text{ mol/l}$.

Dissolve 49,65 g of sodium thiosulfate, $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$, in a 1 000 ml volumetric flask and fill up to the mark with water.

5.5 Starch indicator, 2 g/l solution.

NOTE Commercially available standard solutions may be used.

6 Apparatus and equipment

Ordinary laboratory equipment and the following.

6.1 Agitator, of the propeller type, made of glass or other noncorrosive material (a plastic- or glass-covered magnetic stirrer may be used instead).

6.2 Wet-disintegration apparatus or blender, high-speed mixer, capable of disintegrating the pulp completely with minimum damage to the fibres.

6.3 Water bath, capable of maintaining a temperature of $(25,0 \pm 0,2) ^\circ\text{C}$ in the reaction vessel (see 8.3 regarding temperature correction).

6.4 Timing device, capable of measuring 10 min to the nearest 1 s.

NOTE Automatic Kappa number analysers can be used if they follow this International Standard and give the same results.

7 Sampling and preparation of sample

7.1 Sampling

If the test is being made to evaluate a pulp lot, the sample shall be selected in accordance with ISO 7213. If the test is made on another type of sample, report the source of the sample and if possible the sampling procedure used.

Make sure that the test portions taken are representative of the pulp.

As the presence of small amounts of spent cooking liquor affects the Kappa number, ensure that the sample is well washed.

7.2 Sample preparation

Prepare the test material according to one of the following procedures.

7.2.1 Air-dry pulp. Tear or cut the pulp into small pieces.

7.2.2 Screened slush pulp. Dewater the pulp sample by filtering on a Büchner funnel or by centrifuging, avoiding any loss of fibres or fines. Air-dry the pulp sample, or dry it at a temperature not exceeding $105 ^\circ\text{C}$, and tear it into small pieces.

7.2.3 Unscreened pulp. If the sample is taken from unscreened pulp, which is normally screened before bleaching or other processing, remove the shives and knots from the sample by screening. Choose a procedure that gives results similar to those obtained by industrial screening. State the method of screening in the test report. Continue the sample preparation as described in 7.2.2.

NOTE If the pulp sample contains a considerable amount of shives, the screening procedure may give rise to incorrect results. A more reliable value may be obtained by defibrating the pulp sample before the determination. State the method of defibration in the test report.

8 Procedure

8.1 General

This International Standard includes two different procedures. One is used in the Kappa number range 5 to 100 and the other in the Kappa number range 1 to 5.