



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**kSIST FprEN 13523-4:2014**  
**01-april-2014**

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**Prevlečene kovine, ki se navijajo - Preskusne metode - 4. del: Merjenje trdote s svinčnikom**

Coil coated metals - Test methods - Part 4: Pencil hardness

Bandbeschichtete Metalle - Prüfverfahren - Teil 4: Bleistifhärte

Tôles prélaquées - Méthodes d'essai - Partie 4 : Dureté crayon

**Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: FprEN 13523-4**

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**ICS:**

17.040.20	Lastnosti površin	Properties of surfaces
25.220.60	Organske prevleke	Organic coatings

**kSIST FprEN 13523-4:2014**                      **en,fr,de**



EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**FprEN 13523-4**

March 2014

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ICS 25.220.60

Will supersede EN 13523-4:2001

English Version

## Coil coated metals - Test methods - Part 4: Pencil hardness

Tôles prélaquées - Méthodes d'essai - Partie 4 : Dureté  
crayon

Bandbeschichtete Metalle - Prüfverfahren - Teil 4:  
Bleistifthärte

This draft European Standard is submitted to CEN members for formal vote. It has been drawn up by the Technical Committee CEN/TC 139.

If this draft becomes a European Standard, CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration.

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Recipients of this draft are invited to submit, with their comments, notification of any relevant patent rights of which they are aware and to provide supporting documentation.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION  
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION  
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

**CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels**

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## Foreword

This document (FprEN 13523-4:2014) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 139 "Paints and varnishes", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This document is currently submitted to the Formal Vote.

This document will supersede EN 13523-4:2001.

The main technical changes are:

- a) the definition of pencil hardness was amended;
- b) the term "remove the coating" was corrected to "scratch the coating" in the description of the result of the test;
- c) a remark on preconditioning was added;
- d) concerning the applicability of the pencil hardness test, a reference to EN ISO 15184 was added.

EN 13523, *Coil coated metals — Test methods*, consists of the following parts:

- *Part 0: General introduction*
- *Part 1: Film thickness*
- *Part 2: Gloss*
- *Part 3: Colour difference — Instrumental comparison*
- *Part 4: Pencil hardness*
- *Part 5: Resistance to rapid deformation (impact test)*
- *Part 6: Adhesion after indentation (cupping test)*
- *Part 7: Resistance to cracking on bending (T-bend test)*
- *Part 8: Resistance to salt spray (fog)*
- *Part 9: Resistance to water immersion*
- *Part 10: Resistance to fluorescent UV radiation and water condensation*
- *Part 11: Resistance to solvents (rubbing test)*
- *Part 12: Resistance to scratching*
- *Part 13: Resistance to accelerated ageing by the use of heat*
- *Part 14: Chalking (Helmen method)*
- *Part 15: Metamerism*
- *Part 16: Resistance to abrasion*
- *Part 17: Adhesion of strippable films*
- *Part 18: Resistance to staining*
- *Part 19: Panel design and method of atmospheric exposure testing*
- *Part 20: Foam adhesion*
- *Part 21: Evaluation of outdoor exposed panels*
- *Part 22: Colour difference — Visual comparison*
- *Part 23: Resistance to humid atmospheres containing sulfur dioxide*
- *Part 24: Resistance to blocking and pressure marking*
- *Part 25: Resistance to humidity*
- *Part 26: Resistance to condensation of water*
- *Part 27: Resistance to humid poultice (Cataplasma test)*
- *Part 29: Resistance to environmental soiling (Dirt pick-up and striping)*

## FprEN 13523-4:2014 (E)

### 1 Scope

This part of EN 13523 describes the procedure to assess the relative hardness of an organic coating on a metallic substrate, by means of pencils of known hardness.

Smooth surfaces will give more accurate results but the method is also applicable for textured surfaces. The more pronounced the texture, the greater the unreliability of results.

### 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

prEN 13523-0:2012, *Coil coated metals — Test methods — Part 0: General introduction*

EN 23270, *Paints and varnishes and their raw materials — Temperatures and humidities for conditioning and testing (ISO 3270:1984)*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in prEN 13523-0:2012 and the following apply.

**3.1 pencil hardness**  
resistance of the coating surface to scratching when a pencil with a specified dimension, shape and hardness of the lead is pushed across the surface

### 4 Principle

The coating is intentionally damaged by pencils of increasing hardness. The hardest lead which does not scratch the coating for a minimum of 3 mm length determines the degree of hardness.

### 5 Apparatus and materials

Ordinary laboratory apparatus, together with the following:

**5.1 Set of Cretacolor™ or Faber Castell drawing pencils**<sup>1)</sup> or their equivalents in the following range:

6B, 5B, 4B, 3B, 2B, B, HB, F, H, 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H, 6H

(softer)

(harder)

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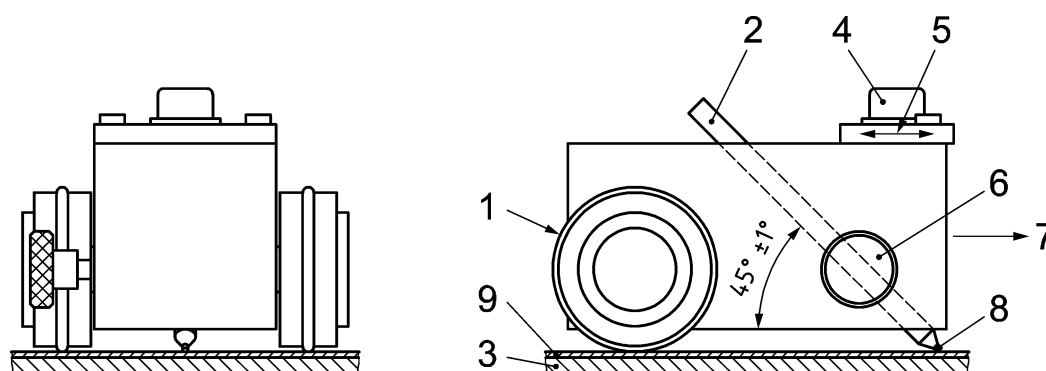
<sup>1)</sup> Cretacolor is the trade name of a product supplied by Brevillier & Co. and A. Urban & Söhne. This information is given for the convenience of users of this European Standard and does not constitute an endorsement by CEN of the product named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results. Cretacolor™ and Faber Castell pencils have been found to be the most uniform and the most reproducible.

**5.2 Special mechanical sharpener**, which will remove the wood only, leaving the cylindrical pencil lead intact (see Figure 2).

**5.3 Abrasive paper**, No. 400 Emery paper is suitable.

**5.4 Lead holder**, as appropriate.

**5.5 Mechanical device**, consisting of a metal block, provided with two wheels on one side of the block. In the middle of the metal block there is a cylindrical hole at an angle of  $45^\circ$ . With the help of a clamp, pencils can be fixed in the device, always in the same manner. A level indicator on the top of the device ensures that testing is carried out horizontally. The device shall be designed so that in the horizontal position a load of  $(7,5 \pm 0,1)$  N is exerted on the tip of the pencil. An example of a suitable device is shown in Figure 1.



#### Key

- |   |                       |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | rubber O-ring         | 6 | clamp                             |
| 2 | pencil                | 7 | direction of motion of instrument |
| 3 | substrate             | 8 | pencil lead                       |
| 4 | level                 | 9 | paint film                        |
| 5 | small, movable weight |   |                                   |

**Figure 1 — Schematic diagram of test instrument**

## 6 Sampling

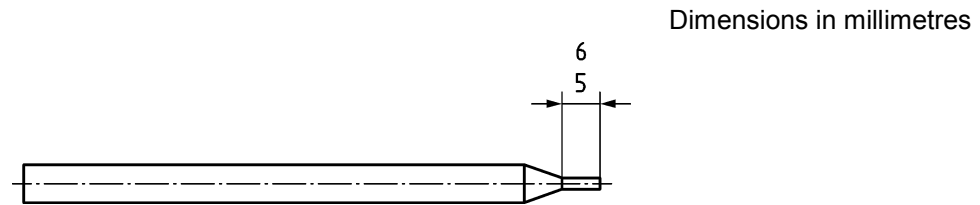
See EN 13523-0.

## 7 Test panels

See EN 13523-0.

## 8 Procedure

Measure the pencil hardness of the organic coating at ambient temperature. For more accurate measurements, as required for instance in case of dispute, the temperature shall be  $(23 \pm 2)^\circ\text{C}$  and the relative humidity  $(50 \pm 5)\%$ , in accordance with EN 23270. Preconditioning is carried out in accordance with prEN 13523-0:2012, Clause 6. Sharpen the pencils (5.1) so that 6 mm of lead, free from nicks and perfectly cylindrical in shape, extends either beyond the wood or beyond the chuck if a holder is used. Then trim the lead on the abrasive paper (5.3) to obtain a level and perfectly circular section whose diameter is equivalent to the pencil lead and whose end is as near as possible at right angles to the axis of the pencil (see Figure 2).



**Figure 2 — Schematic view of pencil after sharpening**

Hold the prepared pencil at 45° to the surface of the coating and push it forward with a force of 7,5 N downward pressure without breaking the lead.

For inspection purposes this test is usually performed manually but for better reproducibility and more accurate measurements a mechanical device (5.5) shall be used in which case a force of 7,5 N shall be applied to the lead.

Make successive tests until the hardest lead which does not scratch the coating for a minimum of 3 mm length is determined, the pencil or holder being rotated to present a fresh edge before each trial.

Before examination remove the lead residue from the test specimen.

## 9 Expression of results

Indicate as the pencil hardness the reference number of the hardest lead which does not scratch the coating for a minimum of 3 mm length. The nature of the damage, i.e. whether or not the scratch goes through the coating to the substrate, shall be reported.

## 10 Precision

### 10.1 General

Smooth surfaces will give more accurate results but the method is also applicable for textured surfaces. The more pronounced the texture, the greater the unreliability of results.

Information on the applicability of the pencil hardness test see EN ISO 15184:2012, Annex A.

### 10.2 Repeatability

This method demands a measure of practical experience in conducting the test in order to obtain repeatable results.

### 10.3 Reproducibility

The absolute results can vary widely when carried out with different devices, by different persons, or with pencils of different batches or from different manufacturers.

However, the results obtained give qualitative information only.

## 11 Test report

The test report shall contain at least the following information: