
**Hygrothermal performance of building
equipment and industrial installations —
Calculation of water vapour diffusion —
Cold pipe insulation systems**

*Performance hygrothermique des équipements de bâtiments et
installations industrielles — Calcul de la diffusion de vapeur d'eau —
Systèmes d'isolation de tuyauteries froides*

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ISO 15758:2004

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Reference number
ISO 15758:2004(E)

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Published in Switzerland

Foreword

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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 15758 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) (as EN 14114:2002) and was adopted, under a special “fast-track procedure”, by Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Calculation methods*, in parallel with its approval by the ISO member bodies.

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Foreword

This document (EN 10264-1:2002) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 89 "Thermal performance of buildings and building components", the secretariat of which is held by SIS.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2002, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2002.

The enquiry version was designated prEN ISO 15758. However, as a result of the enquiry, ISO decided to decouple from the Vienna Agreement; CEN and ISO will proceed to publication on their own.

This standard is one of a series of standards which specify calculation methods for the design and evaluation of the thermal and moisture related performance properties of buildings and building components.

The Annexes A and B are informative.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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EN 14114:2002 (E)

Introduction

If the thermal insulation of a cold pipe system is not completely water vapour tight, there will be a flow of water vapour from the warm environment to the surface of the pipe, whenever the temperature of the surface of the cold pipe is below the dew point of the ambient air. This flow of water vapour leads to an interstitial condensation in the insulation layer and/or dew formation on the surface of the pipe itself. Interstitial condensation may cause the insulation material to deteriorate and dew formation on the surface of a metal pipe may cause corrosion over time. If the temperature is below 0 °C ice will be formed and the methods of this standard will not apply.

In periods where the dew point of the ambient air is higher than the temperature of the outer surface of the insulation surface condensation will occur. This is dealt with in EN ISO 12241.

Different measures are available to control water vapour transfer and reduce the amount of condensation. The following are normally applied:

- a) Installation of a vapour retarder;
- b) Use of insulation materials with a high water vapour resistance factor (low permeability);
- c) Use of a vapour retarder and a capillary active fabric to continuously remove condensed water from the pipe surface to the environment.

Which protection measure is chosen depends on the ambient climate, the temperature of the medium in the pipe and the water vapour diffusion resistance of the insulation layer. The success of any system is strongly dependent on workmanship and maintenance. In any case anti-corrosion measures should be applied to a metal pipe in severe conditions.

The expected economic lifetime of an insulation system, assuming a maximum acceptable accumulated moisture content, can be calculated using the methods in this standard.

1 Scope

This standard specifies a method to calculate the density of water vapour flow rate in cold pipe insulation systems, and the total amount of water diffused into the insulation over time. This calculation method presupposes that water vapour can only migrate into the insulation system by diffusion, with no contribution from airflow. It also assumes the use of homogeneous, isotropic insulation materials so that the water vapour partial pressure is constant at all points equidistant from the axis of the pipe.

The standard is applicable when the temperature of the medium in the pipe is above 0 °C. It applies to pipes inside buildings as well as in the open air.

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies (including amendments).

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| ISO 9346 | <i>Thermal insulation - Mass transfer - Physical quantities and definitions (ISO 9346:1987)</i> |
| ISO 12241 | <i>Thermal insulation for building equipment and industrial installations - Calculation rules (ISO 12241:1998)</i> |
| ISO 12572 | <i>Hygrothermal performance of building materials and products - Determination of water vapour transmission properties (ISO 12572:2001)</i> |
| ISO 13788 | <i>Hygrothermal performance of building components and building elements - Internal surface temperature to avoid critical surface humidity and interstitial condensation – Calculation methods (ISO 13788:2001)</i> |

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and units

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the terms and definitions given in ISO 9346, ISO 12572, ISO 13788 and the following apply.

3.1.1

exposed moist area

surface area of a capillary active fabric that is exposed to the ambient atmosphere

3.1.2

vapour retarder

material with high resistance to the flow of water vapour

3.1.3

corrected water vapour diffusion equivalent air layer thickness

thickness of an imaginary plane layer with $\mu = 1$, and an area of πD_j which has the same diffusion resistance as the layer j with $\mu = \mu_j$

NOTE See Equation (18).

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3.2 Symbols and units

Symbol	Quantity	Unit
A'_e	surface area from which evaporation takes place per linear metre of the pipe	m^2/m
D_j	outside diameter of j th layer of an insulation system	m
D_0	outside diameter of cold pipe	m
G'	total moisture uptake over a period per linear metre of pipe	kg/m
P	actual atmospheric pressure	Pa
P_0	standard atmospheric pressure = 101325	Pa
R_v	gas constant for water vapour = 461,5	J/(kg·K)
T	thermodynamic temperature	K
Z'_p	water vapour resistance of insulation system per linear metre of pipe	$\text{m}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{Pa}/\text{kg}$
Z'_j	water vapour resistance of j th layer of an insulation system per linear metre of pipe	$\text{m}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{Pa}/\text{kg}$
Z'_{fl}	water vapour resistance of one thin foil, cladding or skin per linear metre of pipe.	$\text{m}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{Pa}/\text{kg}$
d	thickness of an insulation layer	m
f_e	evaporation factor	$\text{kg}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{Pa})$
g'	water vapour flow rate within the insulation per linear metre of pipe	$\text{kg}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{s})$
g'_c	rate of condensation per linear metre of pipe	$\text{kg}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{s})$
g'_e	evaporation rate per linear metre of pipe	$\text{kg}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{s})$
h_c	convection heat transfer coefficient	$\text{W}/(\text{m}^2\cdot\text{K})$
p	partial water vapour pressure	Pa
p_a	partial water vapour pressure of air	Pa
p_{sat}	saturated water vapour pressure	Pa
s_d	water vapour diffusion equivalent air layer thickness	m
s_{df}	water vapour diffusion equivalent air layer thickness of foils	m
t	period of calculation (month or year)	month, year
x	distance	m
δ	water vapour permeability	$\text{kg}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{Pa})$
δ_0	water vapour permeability of air	$\text{kg}/(\text{m}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{Pa})$
μ	water vapour resistance factor	-
$\sigma_{d,j}$	corrected water vapour diffusion equivalent air layer thickness of layer j	m
$\tilde{\sigma}_{d,j}$	total corrected water vapour diffusion equivalent air layer thickness from surface of cold pipe to the outside of layer j	m
θ_0	temperature of the medium in the pipe	°C

NOTE For practical reasons, hours or days are often used instead of seconds as time units.

4 Calculation equations

4.1 General

The density of water vapour flow rate, g , through a material is calculated by the following equation:

$$g = -\delta \frac{dp}{dx} \quad (1)$$

where δ is the water vapour permeability of the material.

The total moisture uptake during a period, G , is given by:

$$G = \int_0^t g \, dt \quad (2)$$

In calculations the diffusion resistance factor, μ , is commonly used instead of the permeability

$$\mu = \frac{\delta_0}{\delta} \quad (3)$$

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where δ_0 is the water vapour permeability of still air, which can be calculated from:

$$\delta_0 = \frac{0,083 \cdot P_0 \left(\frac{T}{273} \right)^{1,81}}{R_v T P} \quad (4)$$

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For approximate calculations, δ_0 can be assumed to be constant in the temperature range under consideration; the following value can therefore be used:

$$\delta_0 = 2,0 \times 10^{-10} \quad (5)$$

4.2 Homogeneous insulation

In the case of a cold pipe with a single homogeneous layer of insulation, the density of water vapour flow per metre of an insulated cold pipe is given by replacing the differential expression by the vapour pressure difference in Equation (1):

$$g' = \frac{p_a - p_{\text{sat}}(\theta_0)}{Z'_p} \quad (6)$$

where

- p_a is the vapour pressure of the ambient air, in Pa;
- $p_{\text{sat}}(\theta_0)$ is the saturation vapour pressure at the outside surface of the pipe, in Pa;
- Z'_p is the water vapour resistance per linear metre of the pipe insulation, in m·s·Pa/kg, defined by Equation (7):

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$$Z'_p = \frac{\ln \frac{D_1}{D_0}}{2 \pi \delta} \quad (7)$$

There will only be a vapour flow and hence condensation at the surface of the cold pipe when the vapour pressure of the ambient air is higher than the saturation vapour pressure at the cold surface of the pipe.

The total water uptake over a period t is then given by:

$$G' = \int_0^t \frac{p_a(t) - p_{\text{sat}}(\theta_0(t))}{Z'_p} dt \quad (8)$$

4.3 Multi-layer insulation systems

The water vapour resistance, Z'_p , of an insulation system with n different layers is given by:

$$Z'_p = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\ln \frac{D_j}{D_{j-1}}}{2 \pi \delta_j} \quad (9)$$

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which gives,

$$Z'_p = \frac{1}{2 \pi \delta_0} \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \ln \frac{D_j}{D_{j-1}} \quad (10)$$

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where

$$\mu_j = \frac{\delta_0}{\delta_j}$$

$j = 1$ to n defines the layers from the cold pipe outwards.

Equation (10) can also be used for a homogeneous insulation material with water vapour resistance highly dependent on temperature.

NOTE See Example A.2.

If the outer layer, n , is a vapour retarder jacket, foil or skin, with negligible thickness, but with large water vapour diffusion-equivalent air layer thickness s_{df} , the water vapour resistance of the retarder will be:

$$Z'_n = \frac{1}{\pi \delta_0 D_n} s_{\text{df}} = \frac{1}{2 \pi \delta_0} \frac{2s_{\text{df}}}{D_n} \quad (11)$$

The water vapour resistance of the whole system is then:

$$Z'_p = \frac{1}{2 \pi \delta_0} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \mu_j \ln \frac{D_j}{D_{j-1}} + \frac{2s_{\text{df}}}{D_n} \right) \quad (12)$$