
**Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic —
Resistance to weathering**

*Caoutchouc vulcanisé ou thermoplastique — Résistance aux
intempéries*

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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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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 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 4665 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 45, *Rubber and rubber products*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Testing and analysis*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 4665:1998), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

A number of different exposure techniques can be used to provide information on the effects of environmental stresses such as light, heat and water on rubbers. Each of these has its own particular application and relevance. Explanation of, and guidance on, methods for exposure to natural and artificial weathering is given in the introduction to ISO 877:1994 and in ISO 4892-1. Particular guidance on exposure to determine resistance to ozone is given in ISO 1431-1. The methods for exposure to weathering standardized for plastic materials are essentially suitable for rubbers and hence this standard refers to the relevant ISO standards for plastics for the apparatus and procedures.

It is desirable that the procedures for the determination of changes in properties should be the same whatever exposure is used and that the results should be expressed in a uniform manner. Such procedures are specified in this standard.

Exposure to weathering alters the properties of the material, particularly in the surface layer. The test method used to determine changes in properties should be selected after consideration of the properties of the material which are important in its proposed application and taking into account the fact that degradation may be concentrated at the surface layer. The methods chosen should be capable of measuring change in properties with sufficient precision within the ranges which are important in practice, so as to provide significant criteria of change.

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Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Resistance to weathering

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies methods for the exposure of vulcanized or thermoplastic rubbers to natural or artificial weathering and methods for the determination of changes in colour, appearance and physical properties resulting from exposure.

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 105-A02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02: Grey scale for assessing change in colour*

ISO 877:1994, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to direct weathering, to weathering using glass-filtered daylight, and to intensified weathering by daylight using Fresnel mirrors*

ISO 1431-1, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Resistance to ozone cracking — Part 1: Static and dynamic strain testing*

ISO 4892-1, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 1: General guidance*

ISO 4892-2, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 2: Xenon-arc lamps*

ISO 4892-3, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 3: Fluorescent UV lamps*

ISO 4892-4, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 4: Open-flame carbon-arc lamps*

ISO 7724-1, *Paints and varnishes — Colorimetry — Part 1: Principles*

ISO 7724-2, *Paints and varnishes — Colorimetry — Part 2 Colour measurement*

ISO 7724-3, *Paints and varnishes — Colorimetry — Part 3: Calculation of colour differences*

ISO 23529, *Rubber — General procedures for preparing and conditioning test pieces for physical test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

control

material exposed alongside the test material for comparison

NOTE The control, for example, may be a material of similar or related composition to the test material or a material having a known response to the exposure conditions.

3.2

file test piece

portion of the material to be tested which is stored under conditions in which it is stable and is used for comparison between the exposed and the original state

3.3

masked area

portion of the exposed test piece which is protected from light exposure by masking

3.4

weathering reference material

reference material whose weathering degradation properties are well documented and repeatable when exposed to identical conditions

3.5

exposure stage

interval of exposure between determinations of change in properties, expressed as time or radiant exposure

NOTE Further relevant definitions are given in ISO 877 and ISO 4892.

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4 Principle

Test pieces are exposed to natural or artificial weathering and the resulting changes in colour, appearance and selected physical properties are determined.

5 Exposure to direct weathering, to weathering using glass-filtered daylight or to intensified weathering by daylight using Fresnel mirrors

Carry out the exposure in accordance with the relevant method of ISO 877, with the following additions and modifications:

For tests under strain, prepare the test pieces and place them under strain in accordance with ISO 1431-1.

It is recommended that one or more of the weathering reference materials described in Annex A be used as a control, the material selected depending on the type of rubber compound under test. The effects of natural weathering on these materials in a range of climates are detailed in References [1] and [2] in the Bibliography.

Condition the test pieces in accordance with ISO 23529.

6 Exposure to laboratory light sources

Carry out the exposure in accordance with ISO 4892-1 and, as relevant, ISO 4892-2, ISO 4892-3 or ISO 4892-4, with the following additions and modifications:

For tests under strain, prepare the test pieces and place them under strain in accordance with ISO 1431-1.

It is recommended that one or more of the weathering reference materials described in Annex A be used as a control, the material selected depending on the type of rubber compound under test. The effects of natural weathering on these materials in a range of climates are detailed in References [1] and [2] in the Bibliography.

Condition the test pieces in accordance with ISO 23529.

NOTE 1 The general guidance on weathering of plastics given in ISO 4892-1 is applicable to rubbers.

NOTE 2 In general, an open-flame carbon-arc lamp is not recommended because it is not representative of sunlight.

7 Changes in colour

7.1 Apparatus

7.1.1 Instrumental assessment

Use a colour or colour change apparatus meeting the requirements described in ISO 7724-1, ISO 7724-2 and ISO 7724-3.

7.1.2 Visual assessment

Use the grey scale in accordance with ISO 105-A02.

7.2 Test piece

The test piece shall be in any form which allows sufficient flat area for the determination of colour change.

NOTE It is convenient to use a test piece required for the determination of change in physical properties.

7.3 Procedure

7.3.1 General

The choice of instrumental or visual assessment of colour change shall be made by agreement between the interested parties.

7.3.2 Instrumental assessment

Measure the colour of the test piece before and after each exposure stage in accordance with the procedure given in ISO 7724-1, ISO 7724-2 and ISO 7724-3. If required, also measure the colour of a file test piece or a masked area.

7.3.3 Visual assessment

Compare the contrast rating of the exposed test piece and an unexposed file test piece, and if required a masked area, after each exposure stage, in accordance with the procedure given in ISO 105-A02.

8 Changes in other appearance properties

Examine each test piece visually after each exposure stage for changes in appearance using, if appropriate, the procedure given in a relevant International Standard. Some examples of parameters used to assess change in appearance are listed in Annex B.

Ozone cracking shall be assessed in accordance with ISO 1431-1.

NOTE Cracking or crazing in rubber test pieces exposed outdoors can result from light ageing as well as from ozone attack. A distinction is not always possible, particularly with light-coloured rubbers. Sunlight crazing is characterized by shallow cracks and usually occurs independently of strain, whereas a threshold strain must be exceeded for ozone cracking to occur. Where there is doubt, it is useful to expose an unstrained test piece alongside the strained test piece for comparison.

9 Changes in physical properties

9.1 General

The properties measured may be those specified in an International Standard for the material or as agreed between the interested parties. Some suitable properties are listed in Annex B.

9.2 Apparatus

Apparatus in accordance with the relevant International Standard for the determination of the properties shall be used.

9.3 Test pieces

Test pieces shall comply with the requirements of the relevant International Standard for the determination of the properties chosen.

Test pieces may be cut from an exposed sheet of material. In such cases, the test pieces shall be taken not less than 20 mm from any fixtures holding the material or from supports that are not intended to simulate the conditions of exposure of the material in service. In no circumstances shall any of the material be removed from the exposed face during test piece preparation.

9.4 Procedure

Condition the test pieces and carry out the property determination in accordance with the procedure given in the relevant International Standard. Determine the initial properties on unexposed test pieces and the properties of exposed test pieces after each exposure stage. If required, also determine the properties of file test pieces or masked areas.

Repeat the measurements on test pieces of any control being used.

NOTE With some tests, the results depend on which side of the test piece is exposed. For example, in tests involving bending or flexure the result will depend on whether the exposed or unexposed surface is placed under tension.

10 Expression of results

10.1 Change in colour

10.1.1 Instrumental measurements

Determine the colour difference in accordance with ISO 7724-3.

10.1.2 Visual measurements

Record the contrast rating of the test pieces which have been compared. If the observed contrast lies between two ratings on the grey scale, record an intermediate rating. For example, a rating of 3-4 signifies that the contrast is greater than 3 but less than 4.

Also record the type of colour change using the following terms:

Hue	More blue or less blue More green or less green More red or less red More yellow or less yellow
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Purity	Brighter Duller
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Lightness	Lighter Darker
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A typical report of colour change by visual assessment would be: "More yellow, duller, lighter, grey scale 2-3".

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10.2 Changes in other appearance properties

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For quantitative methods, calculate the mean change in property from:

$$C = P - P_x$$

where

P is the initial property;

P_x is the property at exposure stage x .

For qualitative methods, express the result on a scale agreed between the interested parties. The following is recommended for properties other than ozone cracking:

- 0 none
- 1 barely perceptible
- 2 moderate
- 3 substantial

NOTE This scale is arbitrary and, although it is of considerable value when assessing several test pieces at the same time, great care is necessary in interpreting results from different observations.

Surface cracking on test pieces exposed under strain shall be assessed for resistance to ozone in accordance with ISO 1431-1.