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Packaging — Transport packaging for dangerous goods — Rigid plastics and plastics composite IBCs — Compatibility testing

Emballages — Emballages de transport pour marchandises dangereuses — Grands récipients pour vrac en plastique rigide et en plastique composite — Essais de compatibilité

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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 23667 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 261, *Packaging*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee TC 122, *Packaging*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Performance requirements and tests for means of packaging, packages and unit loads (as required by ISO/TC 122)*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Introduction

This International Standard was developed to provide requirements and test procedures to meet the compatibility provisions for plastics Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) to contain liquids as set out in:

— the *European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road* (ADR) (covering most of Europe) [2]; and

— the *Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail* (RID) (covering most of Europe, parts of North Africa and the Middle East) [5].

This procedure is an alternative option to that set out in the *UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods* [1].

Plastics IBC material can be attacked by the chemical contents of the package. Such effects are caused by different mechanisms such as environmental stress cracking (ESC), chemical degradation and swelling.

The UN recommendations and the associated modal regulations require that all IBCs shall be assessed for compatibility with the substances which they are to contain. The UN text makes special reference to plastics IBCs for liquids. The procedure therein contains details of testing for six months at ambient temperature with the liquid to be carried. RID/ADR permits as an alternative the use of standard liquids to which this document refers.

The UN recommendations are given legal entity not only to ADR and RID, but also to

— the *International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code* (IMDG Code) (worldwide) [4].

These modal rules do not refer to the standard liquid tests, but they may still be acceptable as the UN provisions do not make the six month test a mandatory requirement.

The application of this International Standard will need to take account of the requirements of these international agreements and the relevant national regulations [6], [7] for domestic transport of dangerous goods.

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WARNING — The use of this International Standard may involve hazardous materials and equipment. This International Standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this International Standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the requirements and test methods for compatibility testing of polyethylene-based plastics Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) and composite IBCs with plastics inners containing liquids. The testing involves storage with the packaged substance, or with a standard liquid as defined in Annex A. Annex B describes small scale laboratory tests, which may be used to determine the assimilation of those products to be carried with the standard liquids.

This International Standard should be used in conjunction with one or more of the international regulations set out in the Bibliography.

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 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 527-2, *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Part 2: Test conditions for moulding and extrusion plastics*

ISO 1133, *Plastics — Determination of the melt mass-flow rate (MFR) and the melt volume-flow rate (MVR) of thermoplastics*

ISO 1183-1, *Plastics — Methods for determining the density of non-cellular plastics — Part 1: Immersion method, liquid pyknometer method and titration method*

ISO 1628-3, *Plastics — Determination of the viscosity of polymers in dilute solution using capillary viscometers — Part 3: Polyethylenes and polypropylenes*

ISO 1872-2, *Plastics — Polyethylene (PE) moulding and extrusion materials — Part 2: Preparation of test specimens and determination of properties*

ISO 2818, *Plastics — Preparation of test specimens by machining*

ISO 11403-3, *Plastics — Acquisition and presentation of comparable multipoint data — Part 3: Environmental influences on properties*

ISO 11542-2:1998, *Plastics — Ultra-high-molecular-weight polyethylene (PE-UHMW) moulding and extrusion materials — Part 2: Preparation of test specimens and determination of properties*

ISO 16467:2003, *Packaging — Transport packages for dangerous goods — Test methods for IBCs*

ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

ISO 16770, *Plastics — Determination of environmental stress crackinge (ESC) of polyethylene — Full- notch creep test (FNCT)*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
competent authority
any national regulatory body or authority designated or otherwise recognized as such for any purpose in connection with the regulations specified in the Bibliography

3.2
plastics IBCs
rigid plastics intermediate bulk containers and composite intermediate bulk containers with inner plastics receptacles (where “plastics” refers to certain types of polyethylene)

NOTE Certain types of polyethylene are listed in A.3.

3.3
packaged substance (chemical product)
dangerous liquid with which the IBC is to be filled for transport

NOTE IBCs used for solid packaged substances, which can become liquid at temperatures encountered during transport, should also meet the requirements of IBCs for liquids.

3.4
standard liquids
defined liquids that are representative in their effect for a specific kind of interaction between a packaged substance and the plastics IBC

NOTE A full description of the standard liquids can be found in A.2.

4 Test requirements

4.1 General

Plastics IBCs selected in accordance with Clause 5 shall be conditioned with the packaged substance or a standard liquid with which it is to be assimilated. Annex C contains a list of substances assimilated to standard liquids.

For other chemicals not listed in Annex C, small scale laboratory tests (see Annex B) shall be used to prove assimilation with standard liquids. The standard liquid chosen shall be at least as aggressive as the substance to be transported. Where the packaged substance to be filled cannot be assimilated with one of the standard liquids, the packaged substance itself shall be used and its specification recorded. In the event that the effect is more aggressive than that of the standard liquids, the six month procedure shall be followed, as given in 7.1, or alternatively, and with the exception of nitric acid > 55 %, the accelerated procedure, as given in 7.2.

NOTE When the standard liquid is water, proof of chemical compatibility is not required.

4.2 Conditioning

Plastics IBCs shall be conditioned in accordance with Clause 7 of this International Standard.

4.3 Post-conditioning inspection

At the end of the conditioning period, the IBCs shall be inspected for leakage. Where no leakage is apparent, testing in accordance with Clause 7 of ISO 16467:2003 shall commence within 21 days of the end of the conditioning period (see 7.3).

4.4 Applicability

The tests referred to in 4.5 to 4.10 below may not be applicable to all types of IBCs. See Table 1.

The following tests are applicable, as shown in the sequence of testing required.

Table 1 — Applicability of tests

Test	Rigid plastics IBC	Composite IBC with plastics inner receptacle
4.5 Bottom lift test	1st [a]	1st [a]
4.6 Top lift test	2nd [a]	2nd [a]
4.7 Stacking test — 28 days at 40 °C containing standard liquid	3rd [c]	3rd [b, c]
4.7 Stacking test — 24 h at ambient temperature (minimum 15 °C — see 7.1)	not required [f]	3rd [c, e, f]
4.8 Leakproofness test	4th	4th
4.9 Hydraulic pressure test	5th	5th
4.10 Drop test at −18 °C	6th	6th [d]

NOTE When mechanical tests, in accordance with ISO 16467, have been successfully carried out, it is not necessary to carry out tests 4.5 (Bottom lift test), 4.6 (Top lift test) and 4.7 (Stacking test) for composite IBCs with plastics inner receptacle.

[a] Where IBCs are designed for this method of handling.

[b] Not required where composite IBC has a non-plastics outer component that supports the stacking load.

[c] Where IBCs are designed to be stacked during transport.

[d] A second sample may be used for the drop test.

[e] Required where composite IBC has a non–plastics outer component that supports the stacking load.

[f] A second sample may be used for the stacking test.

4.5 Bottom lift test

When tested in accordance with 7.1 of ISO 16467:2003, there shall be no permanent deformation which renders the IBC, including base pallet, if any, unsafe for transport and no loss of contents.

4.6 Top lift test

When tested in accordance with 7.2 of ISO 16467:2003, there shall be no permanent deformation which renders the IBC including the base pallet, if any, unsafe for transport and no loss of contents.

4.7 Stacking test

When tested in accordance with 7.4 of ISO 16467:2003, there shall be no permanent deformation which renders the IBC, including the base pallet, if any, unsafe for transport and no loss of contents.

4.8 Leakproofness test

When tested in accordance with 7.5 of ISO 16467:2003, there shall be no leakage of air.

4.9 Hydraulic pressure test

When tested in accordance with 7.6 of ISO 16467:2003, there shall be no permanent deformation which renders the IBC unsafe for transport and leakage of liquid.

4.10 Drop test

When tested in accordance with 7.7 of ISO 16467:2003, there shall be no loss of contents. A slight discharge from a closure on impact shall not be considered as a failure of the IBC provided that no further leakage occurs.

4.11 Equivalent testing

The test methods described in this International Standard shall be considered to be the reference test methods.

Alternative methods may be used to demonstrate compliance with relevant regulations provided that:

— their equivalency to the reference method can be demonstrated;

— their use is recorded in the test report;

— prior approval is obtained from the competent authority.

4.12 Test report

All IBC tests in conformity with this International Standard shall be the subject of a test report and specification check in accordance with Annex C of ISO 16467:2003. It shall be possible to specifically identify the IBC relative to each test report, either by the retention of the uniquely referenced IBCs, or by inclusion of sufficient photographs and/or drawings with unique references to enable identification of the IBC and all its components.

5 Selection and preparation of test IBCs

5.1 Selection of IBCs

One or two IBCs of each design type, for each filling substance to be tested, shall be selected at random from a production batch and submitted for testing.

IBCs shall be

a) at least 48 h old,

b) marked with a test reference number which shall also be entered on the test record and later used on the test report,

c) individually weighed to establish the tare or the filled mass,

NOTE The form of such weighing may be varied to fit in with whether the IBCs have been supplied full or empty to the test station. Where the masses of individual empty IBCs are recorded, it is necessary to record only a typical filled mass (or vice versa).

d) examined for damage, etc., which might invalidate the tests.

The tests set out below should be applied to every design type of IBC, by polymer type and grade.

NOTE For selective testing, see ISO 16467:2003, Annex D.

5.2 Information to be provided with IBCs

Each IBC type shall be accompanied by specification(s) for that design type (in the appropriate format set out in Annex C of ISO 16467:2003) and by the following additional information as relevant.

The IBC user (with the assistance, where appropriate, of the IBC manufacturer and the test laboratory) shall identify the packaged substance. In the first instance, this process shall consist of identifying the plastics material concerned and its possible interactions, such as swelling, environmental stress cracking (ESC) and molecular degradation.

The specification forms for plastics IBCs should identify the material by polymer type and grade.

NOTE Where tests are carried out using the packaged substance, the test report may be applicable for other substances having equivalent or lesser chemical effects.

5.3 Filling of IBCs prior to testing

5.3.1 General

IBCs shall be filled for testing as follows:

a) For bottom and top lift tests, IBCs shall be prepared in accordance with 7.1 and 7.2 of ISO 16467:2003.

b) For the stacking test, IBCs shall be prepared in accordance with 7.4 of ISO 16467:2003.

c) For the leakproofness and hydraulic pressure tests, IBCs shall be prepared in accordance with 7.5 and 7.6 of ISO 16467:2003.

d) For the drop test, IBCs shall be filled in accordance with 5.3.3.1 of ISO 16467:2003.

5.3.2 Filling of IBC prior to testing

Filling of IBCs shall be carried out in accordance with the following:

The IBC shall be filled to not less than 98 % of the brimful capacity. The brimful (overflow) capacity is determined by weighing the empty IBC including closures, filling the IBC with water until the water just overflows, fitting the closure and then weighing the IBC full. Any surplus water is mopped up. No steps shall be taken, e.g. by tilting or tapping the IBC, to enable water to penetrate into a hollow lifting feature or other design feature above the closure.

The following formula expresses the brimful capacity:

$$b = \frac{W - m}{d} \qquad (1)$$

where

b is the brimful capacity, in litres (l);

W is the mass of the IBC when brimful with water, in kilograms (kg);

m is the mass of the empty IBC, in kilograms (kg);

d is the density of water (1,0 kg/l).

When the brimful capacity has already been determined by testing in accordance with ISO 16467, this procedure is not necessary.

The calculation of required volume for testing shall be:

$$C = \frac{b \times 98}{100} \tag{2}$$

where

C is the required volume of water, in litres (l);

b is the brimful capacity, in litres (l).

5.4 Closing IBCs

Screw type closures shall be tightened to the torque specified by the applicant where appropriate, which shall be recorded in the test report.

Closure torque shall not differ from one test to another in the test report. If it is necessary to revise a closure torque following a failure in one test, then all tests shall be completed using that torque setting.

All tests for a particular liquid shall be carried out at the same torque.

NOTE The closure torque may vary for different seals.

It is not necessary to apply the specified torque during the conditioning period if this affects the subsequent performance of the seal during the BC testing.

6 Facilities for testing

6.1 General requirements

Tests shall be carried out at a testing facility capable of meeting the operational provisions of ISO/IEC 17025.

NOTE This does not imply a requirement for the test laboratory to have attained third party certification or accreditation, but, if appropriate, such external approval may be obtained from either a national accreditation body or from the competent authority.

Testing staff should have a knowledge of the principles of the dangerous goods regulations, as set out in the UN recommendations.

6.2 Accuracy of measurement equipment

The accuracy of measuring equipment shall be more precise than the accuracy of the measurements in testing, as specified in 6.3, unless otherwise approved by the competent authority. The measuring equipment shall be calibrated in accordance with the relevant provisions of ISO/IEC 17025.

6.3 Accuracy of measurements in testing

Measurement equipment shall be selected such that individual measurement results including errors in reading and calibration shall not exceed the following tolerances:

Mass, in kilograms (kg):	± 2 %
Pressure, in kilopascals (kPa):	± 3 %
Distance / length, in millimetres (mm):	± 2 %
Temperature, in degrees Celsius (°C):	± 1 °C
Time, in minutes (min):	± 3 %
Torque, in newton·metres (Nm):	± 3 Nm or 10 %, whichever is the greater

NOTE For some measurements, the tolerances might be lower in order to have meaningful measurements, e.g. when measuring masses or dimensions of empty IBCs.

Where only maximum or minimum values are specified in the text, tolerances are one sided, e.g. in 7.2 the conditioning temperature may exceed 40 °C, but shall not be less.

6.4 Climatic conditions

There shall be adequate climatic facilities to meet the requirements in Clause 7 of ISO 16467:2003.

6.5 Impact surfaces for drop tests

The drop test area shall be horizontal and flat, massive enough to be immovable and rigid enough to be non-deformable under test conditions and sufficiently large to ensure that the test package falls entirely on the surface.

7 Conditioning procedures

7.1 Six months ambient conditioning

This test shall be carried out at ambient temperature for a period of 6 months.

For the purposes of this International Standard, ambient temperature, which shall be monitored and recorded, is considered to be not less than 15 °C.

NOTE The competent authority may, however, allow an extended period of test for temperatures below 15 °C.

7.2 Accelerated conditioning procedure

The IBCs for test shall be conditioned for 21 days at a minimum temperature of 40 °C with each standard liquid required.

The procedure shall be applied for polyethylene types as defined in A.3.1 and A.3.2. For other types of polyethylene such as defined in A.3.3 and A.3.4, the approval of the competent authority shall be obtained.

7.3 Procedure at the end of the conditioning period

At the end of the conditioning period, all IBCs, except those intended to withstand the stack test for 28 days at 40 ˚C (see Table 1), shall be emptied, rinsed, inspected for damage and prepared for test in accordance with the test procedures for plastics IBCs for liquids (ISO 16467). Testing shall commence within 21 days of the end of the conditioning period. If emptied the packaging shall be kept closed until testing commences.

IBCs which have been conditioned with standard liquid, *n*-butyl acetate, shall be emptied and refilled with a mixture of 1 % to 10 % aqueous wetting agent solution and 2 % *n*-butyl acetate for the stacking test.

NOTE For substances presenting a danger at 40 °C, it may be necessary to replace the filling substance by another substance where at least the same chemical interaction has been demonstrated and the agreement of the competent authority has been obtained.

The same closures and gaskets used during the conditioning of the IBCs shall be used for the rest of the tests, i.e. gaskets and closures shall not be replaced.

7.4 Reuse of standard liquids

The standard liquids shall be checked periodically in accordance with Table 2 as their effectiveness can be reduced over a period of time.

Table 2 — Reuse of standard liquids

Standard Liquid	Specification
Wetting solution	New solution for each test or check surface tension (see Annex A)
Acetic acid	Concentration (99 ± 1) %
Normal butyl acetate	⩾ 98 % [a]
Mixture of hydrocarbons	16 % to 21 % aromatic content [a]
Nitric acid	Concentration ⩾ 55 %

[a] It is recommended that the absorption of these standard liquids is periodically checked with a control specimen of polyethylene of defined type and grade, in accordance with B.4.1. The used standard liquid is no longer fit for purpose when the determined absorption deviates by more than 5 % from the original determined value.

Tests to monitor the quality of the standard liquids shall be done by appropriate means at intervals according to the frequency of usage.

Annex A
(normative)

Standard liquids and applicability to polyethylene types

A.1 Introduction

The standard liquid system has been developed for the investigation of the compatibility of high molecular weight high density polyethylene, but it can also be applied to medium molecular weight polyethylene and to IBCs produced from the above polyethylene types where the surface or surfaces have been fluorinated.

When closures or closure elements are manufactured from materials other than those referred to in A.3, alternative suitable methods to investigate compatibility may be employed.

A.2 Definitions and applicability of standard liquids

A.2.1 Wetting solution

Wetting solution shall be used for substances causing severe cracking in polyethylene under stress, in particular for all solutions and preparations containing wetting agents.

An aqueous solution of 1 % to 10 % of a wetting agent shall be used. The surface tension of this solution shall be (31 to 35) $\times$ 10^{-3} N/m at 23 °C.

The stacking test shall be carried out on the basis of a relative density of not less than 1,2.

If adequate chemical compatibility is proved with a wetting solution, a compatibility test with acetic acid is not required.

In the case of filling substances, however, which cause polyethylene to stress crack more than wetting solution, adequate chemical compatibility may be proved after preliminary storage for 21 days at 40 °C in accordance with 7.2, using the original filling matter.

A.2.2 Acetic acid

Acetic acid shall be used for substances and preparations causing cracking in polyethylene under stress, in particular for monocarboxylic acids and monovalent alcohol, acetic acid of 98 % to 100 % concentration shall be used with a relative density equal to 1,05.

The stacking test shall be carried out on the basis of a relative density not less than 1,1.

In the case of filling substances causing polyethylene to swell more than acetic acid, and to such an extent that the polyethylene mass is increased by up to 4 %, adequate chemical compatibility may be proved after preliminary storage for 21 days at 40 °C, in accordance with 7.2, using the original filling matter.

A.2.3 Normal butyl acetate

Normal butyl acetate and normal butyl acetate-saturated wetting solution shall be used for substances and preparations that cause polyethylene to swell to such an extent that the polyethylene mass is increased by up to 4 % and, at the same time, causes cracking under stress, in particular for phyto-sanitary products, liquid paints and esters.

