INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Paints and varnishes — Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) on high-impedance coated specimens —

Part 3: Processing and analysis of data from dummy cells

Peintures et vernis — Spectroscopie d'impédance électrochimique (SIE) sur des éprouvettes revêtues de haute impédance —

Partie 3: Traitement et analyse des données obtenues à partir de cellules test

Reference number
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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 16773-3 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee SC 9, *General test methods for paints and varnishes*.

ISO 16773 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Paints and varnishes — Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) on high-impedance coated specimens*:

— *Part 1: Terms and definitions*

— *Part 2: Collection of data*

— *Part 3: Processing and analysis of data from dummy cells*

— *Part 4: Examples of spectra of polymer-coated specimens*

Paints and varnishes — Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) on high-impedance coated specimens —

Part 3: Processing and analysis of data from dummy cells

1 Scope

This part of ISO 16773 specifies a procedure for the evaluation of the experimental set-up used for carrying out EIS on high-impedance coated samples. For this purpose, dummy cells are used to simulate high-impedance coated samples. On the basis of the equivalent circuits described, this part of ISO 16773 gives guidelines for the use of dummy cells to increase confidence in the test protocol, including making measurements, curve fitting and data presentation.

2 Description of the dummy cells

2.1 General

A set of four equivalent circuits (dummy cells) is used to check the overall experimental arrangement. The dummy cells are mounted separately. Two types of equivalent circuit, A and B, are used, as shown in Figure 1. The specific electrical components of these four cells are given in Table 1.

NOTE In Clause 7, the results of an interlaboratory test are used to evaluate the precision of this method. During the interlaboratory test, the participating laboratories also measured a fifth dummy cell consisting of an equivalent circuit of type B with unknown component values.

2.2 Components of the dummy cells

Each dummy cell consists of a combination of resistors and capacitors which are soldered directly onto a printed-circuit board (see Figures 1 and 2). Such networks of resistors and capacitors (equivalent circuits) are often used in work on high-impedance coated specimens.

NOTE Because of the very high overall resistance of circuits A and B, the resistor simulating the electrolyte can be neglected. Typically, the values of resistances R_1 and R_2 are above 100 MΩ whereas the electrolyte resistance is around 100 Ω to 500 Ω. As a consequence, the electrolyte resistance is not significant in this kind of EIS application.

The values of the components of the four dummy cells are chosen in accordance with the following considerations:

- Dummy cell 1 should check the input resistance as well as the input capacitance of the measurement equipment.
- Dummy cells 2 to 4 should check the capability of the evaluation software and the impedance measurement equipment to distinguish between only slightly different resistor/capacitor combinations.

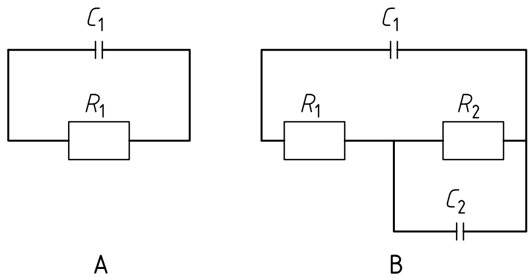


Figure 1 — Equivalent circuits of the dummy cells

Table 1 — Values of the components of the dummy cells

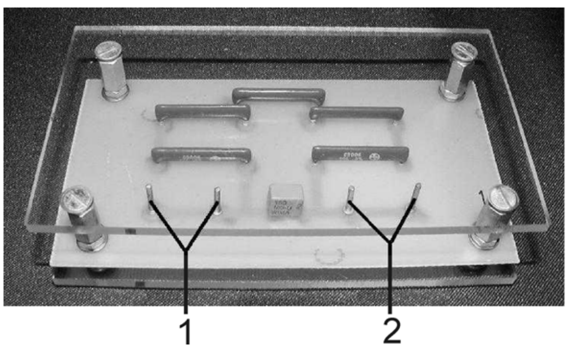
Dummy cell	Circuit	R_1 $\times 10^9\ \Omega$	R_2 $\times 10^9\ \Omega$	C_1 $\times 10^{-9}$ F	C_2 $\times 10^{-9}$ F
1	A	50	—	0,15	—
2	B	1	10	0,15	0,47
3	B	1	0,2	0,1	20
4	B	0,1	0,1	10	10

2.3 Accuracy requirements for the components

The accuracy required for resistors below $10^9\ \Omega$ is ± 2 % and for resistors above $10^9\ \Omega$ it is ± 5 %. The accuracy required for the capacitors is ± 5 %. Such resistors and capacitors are available commercially.

2.4 Circuit description

Usually, the measurement of high-impedance coatings requires only a two-electrode set-up, but electrochemical workstations offer the possibility of connecting up three or four electrodes. To simplify the connection of the dummy cells to electrochemical workstations, each cell should have four connectors (as indicated in Figure 2), the connectors being connected internally in pairs. To avoid contamination (e.g. by fingerprints) of the printed-circuit board, each dummy cell is protected by acrylic plates mounted on top of and underneath the cell.



Key

1, 2 connector pairs

Figure 2 — Photograph of a dummy cell used in the interlaboratory test

3 Procedure

Perform all measurements in a Faraday cage in order to minimize electromagnetic interference.

NOTE The four dummy cells allow the suitability of a shielding technique (i.e. a Faraday cage) to be determined, as well as helping to find the location in the laboratory where electromagnetic noise levels are lowest.

Perform the measurements in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations in the potentiostatic mode at a DC value of zero volts, using an amplitude of 20 mV.

A frequency range between 10^4 Hz and 10^{-2} Hz is sufficient for measurements with dummy cells 2 to 4. For dummy cell 1, a frequency range of 100 Hz to 5×10^{-3} Hz is recommended. About 30 min to 40 min are required for a single measurement (for dummy cell 1, about 1 h).

If the results of the measurements are not satisfactory when using an amplitude of 20 mV, increase the amplitude.

4 Data analysis

Using suitable software, e.g. that supplied by the manufacturer of the electrochemical workstation, analyse the results obtained from the dummy cell with equivalent circuit A (see Table 1). Record the result of curve fitting, the theoretical values of the circuit components and the excitation potential which was applied.

NOTE 1 Unfortunately, the curve-fitting error given for the data analysed differs from manufacturer to manufacturer, so direct comparison is not possible.

Prepare a Bode plot with the measured and simulated data.

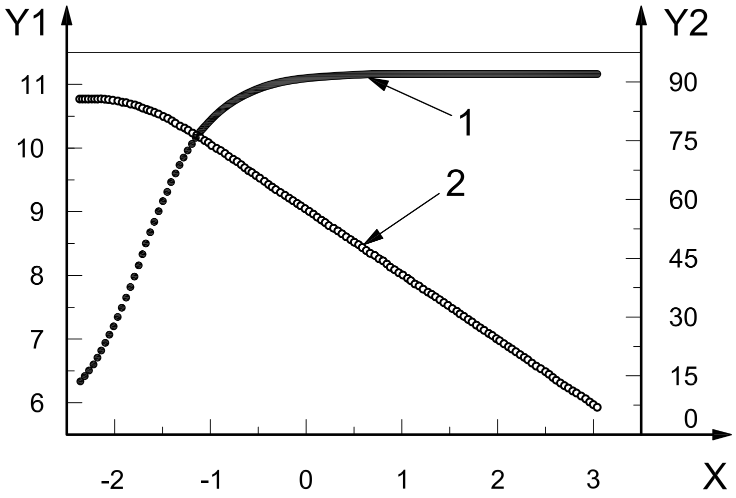
NOTE 2 Although the curve-fitting errors are not comparable, the Bode plot gives an indication of the quality of the measured data, especially at low frequencies.

Repeat the analysis with the results from cells 2 to 4 using equivalent circuit B (see Table 1).

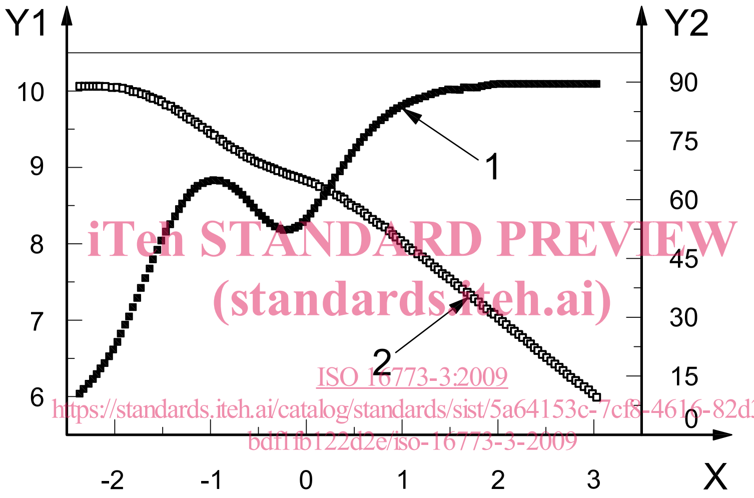
5 Presentation of the results

Present the measured data as Bode plots for comparison purposes.

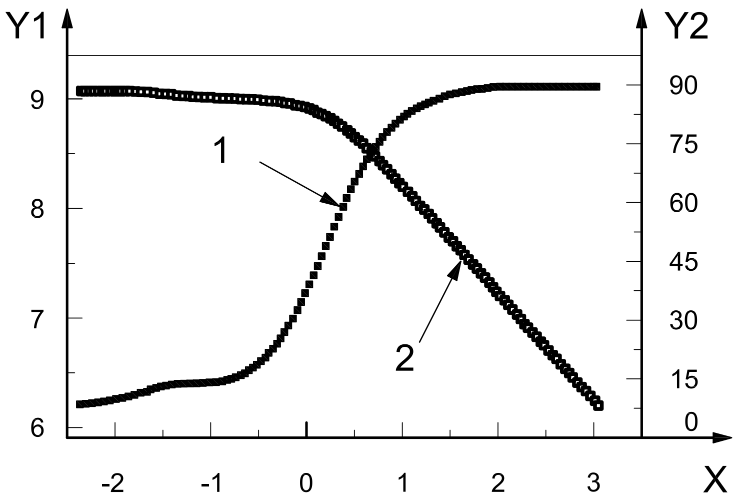
The Bode plots in Figure 3 show how the dummy-cell measurements should look. These diagrams were calculated using simulation software and can be used to compare with results from dummy-cell measurements.



a) **Cell 1**

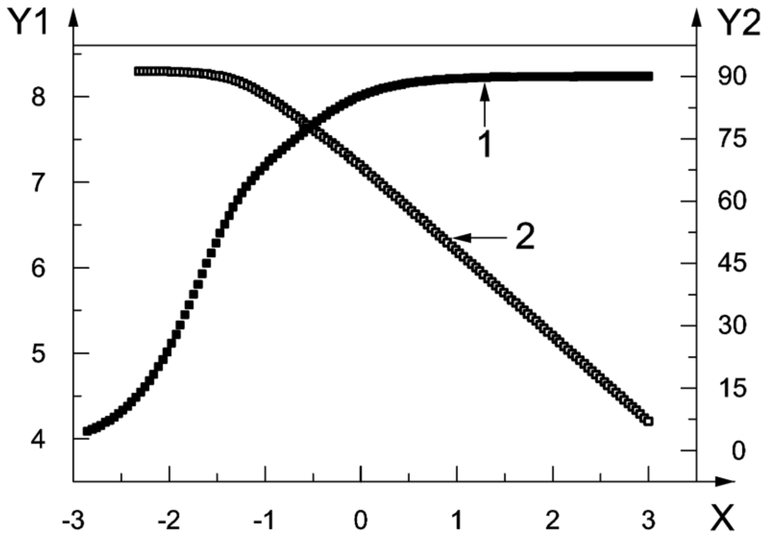


b) **Cell 2**

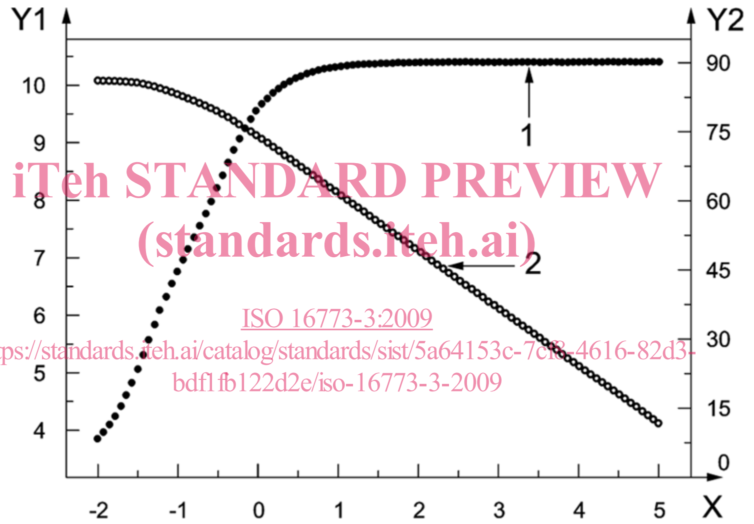


c) **Cell 3**

Figure 3 (*continued*)



d) **Cell 4**



e) **Cell 5 (values of components unknown)**

Key

X log$f$ (f in Hz)

Y_1 log$|Z|$ (Z in Ω)

Y_2 $|\varphi|$ (degrees)

1 phase angle φ

2 impedance Z

Figure 3 — Bode plots of the simulated impedance spectra of the dummy cells and the unknown cell