INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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# Dentistry — Dental furnace — Test method for temperature measurement with separate thermocouple

*Médecine bucco-dentaire — Four dentaire — Méthode d'essai pour le mesurage de la température au moyen d'un thermocouple*



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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 13078 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 106, *Dentistry*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Prosthodontic materials*.

# Introduction

Dental furnaces are suitable for the manufacturing of metal-ceramic and all-ceramic restorations for use in dentistry. Dental furnaces are particularly used for firing or sintering, respectively, of dental opaques, dentine and enamel materials to the respective compatible substructure materials. Dental furnaces are also used for other applications such as oxidizing metallic substructures in preparation for porcelain firing, for melting pressable ceramics, for stain and glaze firing, etc. According to the current state of the art, the temperature of this process lies between 600 °C and 1 050 °C.

The firing result obtained is influenced by the accuracy of the actual temperature, which may be influenced by the different calibration processes applied by the manufacturers of dental furnaces as well as by the varying construction types of the dental furnaces currently on the market.

Despite the fact that different dental furnaces can have identical digital external displays, different results regarding the degree of firing can be identified when processing the same ceramics under otherwise similar conditions.

A different degree of firing does not only cause differences that can be judged directly by the human eye (e. g. colour and transparency), but also deviations that cannot be detected by eye. These are for instance the coefficient of thermal expansion, strength, and solubility of the dental opaque, dentine or enamel materials, and the bonding strength to its substructure. Such changes may result in clinical failures (e. g. fractures) as well as discoloration and changed aesthetics of the dental ceramic restoration.

This International Standard levels the currently existing differences between the final calibration of the dental furnaces based on the factory of origin through a final adjustment (that has to be carried out by all manufacturers in an identical way) of the temperature control in the firing chamber by means of a thermocouple at e.g. 800 °C.

Alternatively, the verification of the process can be carried out using the thermocouple at 700 °C or 900 °C.

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## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a test method for the calibration of dental furnaces that are suitable for the heat treatment of silica-based dental ceramic restorations in the temperature range between 600 °C and 1 050 °C. This International Standard does not include furnaces intended to sinter zirconium oxide-frameworks (in the temperature range of 1 350°C or higher).

## 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 1942, *Dentistry — Vocabulary*

ISO 6872, *Dentistry — Ceramic materials*

IEC 60584-1, *Thermocouples — Part 1: Reference tables*

IEC 60584-2, *Thermocouples — Part 2: Tolerances*

IEC 60584-3, *Thermocouples — Part 3: Extension and compensating cables — Tolerances and identification system*



## 3 Terms and definitions



For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 1942, ISO 6872 and IEC 60584-1 and the following apply.

**3.1**
**dental furnace**
furnace in the firing chamber in which dental materials are treated thermally (i.e. fired or sintered, oxidized)

**3.2**
**heating rate**
rate of temperature increase

NOTE The heating rate is expressed in degrees Celsius per minute (°C/min).

**3.3**
**holding time**
period of time over which the desired temperature of the dental furnace is maintained until the time prescribed by the manufacturer, starting when the display of the dental furnace shows that the set test temperature has been achieved and the furnace temperature has stabilized

## 4 Test method

### 4.1 Test equipment and test products

**4.1.1 Test fixture** that positions the thermocouple in accordance with Figure 1. An example is:

1) type: honeycomb tray of cordierite; colour: light;

2) thickness: (11 ± 1) mm;

3) diameter: (60 ± 6) mm.

NOTE Any firing tray capable of enabling a thermocouple positioning according to Figure 1 may be used.

**4.1.2 Dental furnace**;

**4.1.3 Thermocouple** with, for example, the following specifications:

1) thermocouple platinum-10 % rhodium/platinum (Type S) in accordance with IEC 60584-1, with a tolerance of the thermoelectric voltage of class 1 in accordance with IEC 60584-2;

2) diameter of the legs: 0,5 mm in accordance with DIN 43732, Type C;

3) diameter of the head: (1,5 ± 0,5) mm.

NOTE Any thermocouple appropriately calibrated and adjusted for the given temperature-range (up to 1 050 °C) may be used.

**4.1.4 Compensating cable for the thermocouple** with a tolerance of the compensating cable of class 2 in accordance with IEC 60584-3. The cold junction voltage shall be compensated by the measuring device.

**4.1.5 Temperature indicating device**, certified or calibrated to be accurate to ± 1,2 °C between 400 °C and 1 050 °C (e. g. HP data logger or Ezecal)[1)].



## 4.2 Procedure

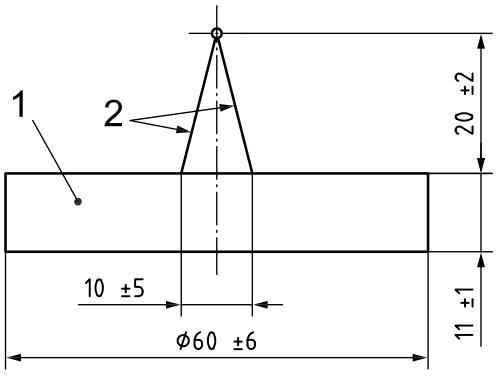
### 4.2.1 Positioning of the thermocouple

The thermocouple is placed in the firing chamber of the dental furnace centrally with the thermocouple head located at a height of (20 ± 2) mm above the test fixture (see Figure 1). The distance between the thermocouple wires on the surface of the test fixture is (10 ± 5) mm.



The firing tray is fixed centrally in the firing chamber of the dental furnace.

Dimensions in millimetres




**Key**

1 firing tray (honeycomb tray)

2 thermocouple wires

**Figure 1 — Positioning of the thermocouple on the firing tray**

1) HP data logger and Ezecal are examples of suitable commercially available products. This information is given for the convenience of the users of this standard only and does not constitute an endorsement of these products by ISO.