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## Test dusts for evaluating air cleaning equipment

*Poussières d'essai pour l'évaluation des équipements d'épuration d'air*

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 142, *Cleaning equipment for air and other gases*.

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## Introduction

Filters are subjected to evaluation of their initial performance and dust-loaded performance in laboratory tests using specified test dusts. The results are to reflect the performance of the filter as installed in a building. However, since the properties of atmospheric aerosols vary to a large extent regionally, seasonally, and according to weather conditions, test data obtained with a given test dust seldom accurately predict the filter performance as actually used. In addition to this, the test results with a given test dust might not be in agreement with those obtained by other laboratories because the filter performance is affected by many factors such as particle size distribution, particle agglomeration, and electrical charge. Despite these problems in testing filter performance, the test data are used for the classification of filters, estimation of energy consumption, Life Cycle Cost (LCC), and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

The test dust used for evaluating initial performance and loaded performance of filters can have a different specification from the dust used to achieve filter loading.

This International Standard does not control the specification, manufacturing, or use of test dusts. It describes the properties of test dusts which can be used to load filters, and the requirements for test dust generation that will ensure that useful laboratory test results are obtained in order to mimic the actual use as much as possible.

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# Test dusts for evaluating air cleaning equipment

## 1 Scope

This International Standard defines the properties of load test dusts used for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) air filters as well as air cleaning equipment in laboratories. Test dusts used for evaluation of efficiency performance are not included.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For updated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 12103-1, *Road vehicles — Test dust for filter evaluation — Part 1: Arizona test dust*

ISO/TS 21220, *Particulate air filters for general ventilation — Determination of filtration performance*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### dust feeder

device which is used to distribute test dust to the filter

### 3.2

#### median diameter

diameter of the particle for which the cumulated volume fraction is equal to 50 % on a cumulated volume particle size distribution curve

### 3.3

#### undersize

percentage in volume of particles smaller than a specified particle size in a particle size distribution

### 3.4

#### particulate matter

#### PM

size fraction of the natural aerosol (liquid and solid particles) suspended in ambient air, with the symbol PM<sub>x</sub> where x defines the size range of the aerodynamic diameter

Note 1 to entry: The following particle size fractions are used in this International Standard.

| Fraction          | Category            | Size range<br>µm |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| PM <sub>10</sub>  | Thoracic fraction   | ≤10              |
| PM <sub>2,5</sub> | Respirable fraction | ≤2,5             |

Note 2 to entry: The collection efficiency of the correct equipment at the considered diameter is equal to 50 %.

## 4 Test dusts designation

Load test dusts belong to one of four categories, according to the composition, the particle median diameter, and the particle density as shown in [Table 1](#).

**Table 1 — Load test dusts**

| Categories | Composition  | Median diameter<br>μm                                     | Density<br>g/cm <sup>3</sup>                              |
|------------|--|---|---|
| L1         | Mixture of:<br>— Arizona desert sand 72 % <sup>a</sup><br>— Carbon 23 %<br>— Milled Cotton linters 5 % | Conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2<br>Not defined<br>Not defined | Conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2<br>Not defined<br>Not defined |
| L2         | Arizona desert sand <sup>a</sup>   | Conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2                               | Conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2                               |
| L3         | KANTO loam (sintered)  | 1,7–2,5   | 2,9–3,1 (for reference)                                   |
| L4         | Mixture of:<br>— Arizona desert sand <sup>a</sup> 93,5 %<br>— Milled cotton linters 6,5 %              | Conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2<br>Not defined                | Conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2<br>Not defined                |

L1 test dust is the same as the commercially available dust used for ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2 testing. The details conform to the description of the standard.

L2 test dust is the same as ISO 12103-1, A2 Arizona test dust. The details conform to the description of the standard.

L3 test dust is the same as SAP14-12 Test Powders 3-3. The details conform to the description of the standard (SAP: Standard of Association of Powder Process Industry and Engineering, Japan).

L4 test dust is the same as ANSI/AHRI 680. The details conform to the description of the standard.

<sup>a</sup> See ISO 12103-1.

## 5 Chemical composition

The chemical composition of each test dust shall meet the requirements of [Table 2](#).

**Table 2 — Chemical composition (mass fraction, %)**

| L1                           | L2                             | L3                             |          | L4                             |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| ISO 12103-1, A2<br>72 %      | Conforms to<br>ISO 12103-1, A2 | SiO <sub>2</sub>               | 34 to 40 | ISO 12103-1, A2<br>93,5 %      |
|                              |                                | Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 26 to 32 |                                |
|                              |                                | Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 17 to 23 |                                |
| Carbon black<br>23 %         |                                | CaO                            | 0 to 3   | Milled cotton linters<br>6,5 % |
| Milled cotton linters<br>5 % |                                | MgO                            | 0 to 7   |                                |
|                              |                                | TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 0 to 4   |                                |
|                              |                                | Loss on ignition               | 0 to 4   |                                |

## 6 Particle size distribution

The particle size distributions of L1, L2, and L4 test dust conform to ISO 12103-1, A2 for the Arizona desert sand component of the mixture. The carbon black and cotton linters conform to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2 testing.

The particle size distribution of L3 test dust shall meet the requirements of [Table 3](#).



Table 3 — Particle size distribution of L3 test dust

| Undersize,<br>volume fraction (%) | Particle size, $\mu\text{m}$ |         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------|
|                                   | Minimum                      | Maximum |
| 10                                | 0,89                         | 1,3     |
| 20                                | 1,2                          | 1,7     |
| 30                                | 1,4                          | 2,0     |
| 40                                | 1,5                          | 2,3     |
| 50                                | 1,7                          | 2,5     |
| 60                                | 1,8                          | 2,7     |
| 70                                | 2,0                          | 2,9     |
| 80                                | 2,4                          | 3,5     |
| 90                                | 2,9                          | 4,2     |

## 7 Particle size analysis procedure

### 7.1 L1 test dust

The particle size analysis procedure conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2 for the Arizona desert sand component of the mixture. There is no particle size analysis procedure for the carbon black and cotton linters components.

### 7.2 L2 test dust

The particle size analysis procedure conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2.

### 7.3 L3 test dust

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The particle size analysis procedure conforms to SAP14-12 Test Powders 3. Laser diffraction scattering is used for the measurement. For the measuring device and the measurement conditions, the specification approved by the test dust supplier, APPIE (Association of Powder Process Industry and Engineering, Japan) is used.

### 7.4 L4 test dust

The particle size analysis procedure conforms to ISO 12103-1, A2 for the Arizona desert sand component of the mixture. There is no particle size analysis procedure for the cotton linters component.

## 8 Production methods

### 8.1 L1 test dust

This test dust is produced by mixing the three components listed in [Table 1](#). The detailed procedure conforms to ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 52.2.

### 8.2 L2 test dust

This test dust is collected from a selected area of Arizona desert, jet-milled and classified to the specified particle size.

### 8.3 L3 test dust

KANTO loam is sintered for two hours, jet-milled and classified to the specified particle size.