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**Thermal insulating products for building  
applications — Determination of long-  
term water absorption by immersion**

*Produits isolants thermiques destinés aux applications du bâtiment —  
Détermination de l'absorption d'eau à long terme par immersion*

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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 16535 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Test and measurement methods*.

ISO 16535 includes the original EN 12087 prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 88 “Thermal insulating materials and products”, with the following clauses modified to reflect the conditions for tropical countries:

- Clause 5.4: Conditioning of test specimens;
- Clause 6.1: Test conditions;
- Clause 9: Test report.

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## Introduction

ISO 16535 is one of a series of existing European Standards on test methods which were adopted by ISO. This group of International Standards comprises the following group of interrelated standards:

ISO	Title	Respective EN standard
12344	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of bending behaviour	EN 12089
12968	Thermal insulation products for building applications — Determination of the pull-off resistance of external thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS) (foam block test)	EN 13495
29465	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of length and width	EN 822
29466	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of thickness	EN 823
29467	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of squareness	EN 824
29468	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of flatness	EN 825
29469	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of compression behaviour	EN 826
29470	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of the apparent density	EN 1602
29471	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of dimensional stability under constant normal laboratory conditions (23 degrees C/50 % relative humidity)	EN 1603
29472	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of dimensional stability under specified temperature and humidity conditions	EN 1604
29764	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of deformation under specified compressive load and temperature conditions	EN 1605
29765	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of tensile strength perpendicular to faces	EN 1607
29766	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of tensile strength parallel to faces	EN 1608
29767	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of short-term water absorption by partial immersion	EN 1609
29768	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of linear dimensions of test specimens	EN 12085
29769	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of behaviour under point load	EN 12430
29770	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of thickness for floating-floor insulating products	EN 12431
29771	Thermal insulating materials for building applications — Determination of organic content	EN 13820

29803	Thermal insulation products for building applications — Determination of the resistance to impact of external thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS)	EN 13497
29804	Thermal insulation products for building applications — Determination of the tensile bond strength of the adhesive and of the base coat to the thermal insulation material	EN 13494
29805	Thermal insulation products for building applications — Determination of the mechanical properties of glass fibre meshes	EN 13496
16534	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of compressive creep	EN 1606
16535	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of long-term water absorption by immersion	EN 12087
16536	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of long-term water absorption by diffusion	EN 12088
16537	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of shear behaviour	EN 12090
16546	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of freeze-thaw resistance	EN 12091
16544	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Conditioning to moisture equilibrium under specified temperature and humidity conditions	EN 12429
16545	Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of behaviour under cyclic loading	EN 13793

A further group of existing European Standards on test methods for products used to insulate building equipment and industrial installations comprises the following group of interrelated International Standards:

ISO 12623	Thermal insulating products for building equipment and industrial installations — Determination of short-term water absorption by partial immersion of preformed pipe insulation	EN 13472
ISO 12624	Thermal insulating products for building equipment and industrial installations — Determination of trace quantities of water soluble chloride, fluoride, silicate, sodium ions and pH	EN 13468
ISO 12628	Thermal insulating products for building equipment and industrial installations — Determination of dimensions, squareness and linearity of preformed pipe insulation	EN 13467
ISO 12629	Thermal insulating products for building equipment and industrial installations — Determination of water vapour transmission properties of preformed pipe insulation	EN 13469

# Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of long-term water absorption by immersion

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the equipment and procedures for determining the long-term water absorption of test specimens. It is applicable to thermal insulating products.

This International Standard specifies two options:

- Method 1: partial immersion; and
- Method 2: total immersion.

The long-term water absorption by partial immersion is intended to simulate the water absorption caused by long-term water exposure.

The long-term water absorption by total immersion is not directly related to the conditions on site, but has been recognized as a relevant condition of test for some products in some applications.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced document is 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 29768, *Thermal insulating products for building applications — Determination of linear dimensions of test specimens*

## 3 Principle

**3.1 Partial immersion** (Method 1). The long-term water absorption by partial immersion is determined by measuring the change in mass of a test specimen, the lower part of which is in contact with water for a period of 28 days.

The excess water adhering to the surface, not absorbed by the test specimen, is removed by drainage in Method 1A or taken into account by deduction of the initial water uptake in Method 1B.

**3.2 Total immersion** (Method 2). The long-term water absorption by total immersion is determined by measuring the change in mass of the test specimen, totally immersed in water, over a period of 28 days.

The excess water adhering to the surface, not absorbed by the test specimen, is removed by drainage in Method 2A or taken into account by deduction of the initial water uptake in Method 2B.

## 4 Apparatus

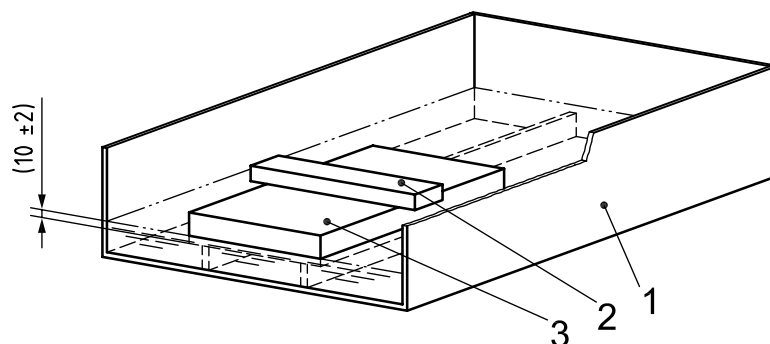
**4.1 Balance**, allows the determination of the mass of a test specimen to 0,1 g.

**4.2 Water tank**, with a device for keeping the water level constant to within  $\pm 2$  mm, and a device to keep the test specimen in the required position. Examples of test devices are given in Figures 1, 2 and 3. The device to keep the test specimen in position shall not cover more than 15 % of the cross-sectional area of the test specimen, which is exposed to water. The device shall be such that the original form of the test specimen is maintained.

**4.3 Tap water**, adjusted to a temperature of  $(23 \pm 5) ^\circ\text{C}$ .

**4.4 Equipment for drainage.** The principle for Methods 1A and 2A is illustrated in Figures 4a) and 4b).

Dimensions in millimetres.



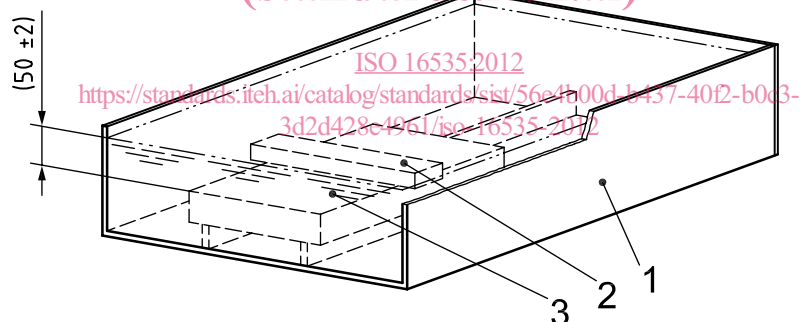
**Key**

- 1 water tank
- 2 load to keep the test specimen in position
- 3 test specimen

**Figure 1 — Example of equipment for the determination of water absorption by partial immersion (Methods 1A and 1B)**

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Dimensions in millimetres.



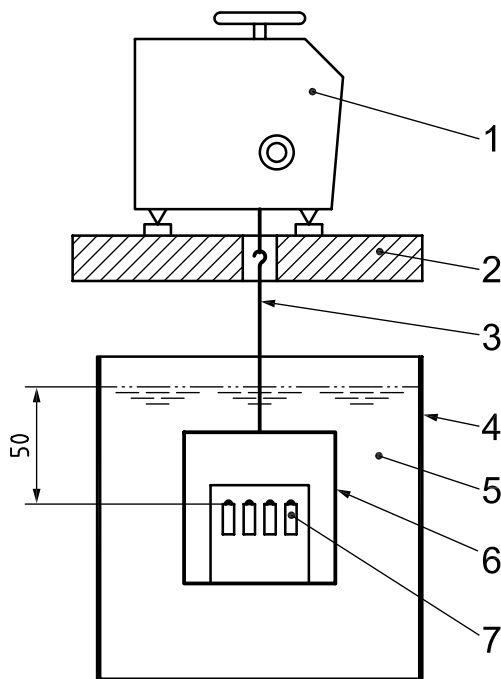
**Key**

- 1 water tank
- 2 load to keep the test specimen in position
- 3 test specimen

**Figure 2 — Example of equipment for the determination of water absorption by total immersion (Methods 2A and 2B)**



Dimensions in millimetres.



**Key**

- 1 balance
- 2 weighing table
- 3 linkage
- 4 water container
- 5 water
- 6 mesh cage made of stainless material with fixing rods or a sinker large enough in mass to compensate for the upthrust of the test specimen
- 7 test specimen

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**Figure 3 — Example of equipment for the determination of water absorption by total immersion (Method 2C)**

