

SLOVENSKI STANDARD

SIST EN 12407:2019

01-september-2019

Nadomešča:
SIST EN 12407:2007

Preskušanje naravnega kamna - Petrografska preiskava

Natural stone test methods - Petrographic examination

Prüfverfahren für Naturstein - Petrographische Prüfung

Méthodes d'essai pour pierres naturelles - Examen pétrographique

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Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: EN 12407:2019

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ICS:

73.020	Rudarstvo in kamnolomsko izkopavanje	Mining and quarrying
91.100.15	Mineralni materiali in izdelki	Mineral materials and products

SIST EN 12407:2019

en,fr,de

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EUROPEAN STANDARD
NORME EUROPÉENNE
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN 12407

June 2019

ICS 73.020; 91.100.15

Supersedes EN 12407:2007

English Version

Natural stone test methods - Petrographic examination

Méthodes d'essai de pierres naturelles - Examen
péetrographique

Prüfverfahren für Naturstein - Petrographische
Prüfung

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 15 April 2019.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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European foreword

This document (EN 12407:2019) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 246 “Natural stones”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by November 2019, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by November 2019.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 12407:2007.

In comparison with the previous edition, the following changes have been made:

— the changes concern essentially the proper scientific definitions, terminology, and diagrams.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

A petrographic description of natural stones is important not only for the purposes of petrographic classification but also in order to highlight features affecting its chemical, physical and mechanical behaviour. In the same way the determination of the stone's origin could be necessary (e.g. in the case of restoration of historical monuments). It is therefore essential to characterize the natural stones for their mineral components and for their fabric and structure but also in terms of any features as: colour, presence of veins, of fossils, of discontinuities, etc.

To ensure that the petrographic classification is objective, it is essential that the characterization of the material is, as far as possible, quantitative.

The interpretation of the results obtained from the petrographic examination of natural stone should include evidences of a possible relationship between petrographic features and technical properties (pores/cleavages/schistosity with water absorption/gelivity/flexure resistance etc.).

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1 Scope

This document specifies methods for making technical petrographic descriptions of natural stone, except for roofing slates. For this product, the method for the petrographic examination is defined in EN 12326-2. Although chemical and physical methods of analysis are required for petrographic classification of some stone types, these methods will not be described in this standard.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

EN 12440, *Natural stone - Denomination criteria*

EN 12670, *Natural stone - Terminology*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

4 Symbols

vol.% unit of the volume percentage of the mineral phase present in the sample.

5 Principle

A macroscopic description of the sample is undertaken at first. The macroscopic description may involve a visual inspection aided by a hand lens or a stereoscopic microscope. Then one or more thin sections prepared from the sample are examined using an optical polarized transmitted light microscope in order to give a microscopic description and modal analysis (volume proportions of mineral phases) of the sample; where appropriate an additional polished section shall be prepared.

Modal analysis is the most accurate determination of quantitative mineralogical composition of natural stones. It attributes to each mineral phase a certain percentage (vol.%). Modal analysis is obtained by point counting following a standard procedure on thin sections (at least 44 mm × 28 mm) or using Shvetsov's diagrams (or any other similar diagrams commonly used by petrographers).

6 Apparatus

- 6.1 Hand lens or stereoscopic microscope (if required).
- 6.2 Water cooled rock cutter equipped with a continuous rim and sliding guide.
- 6.3 Automatic grinding machine or manual grinding machine with a cast-iron lapidary.
- 6.4 Electrical heating plate.
- 6.5 Bonding press.

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- 6.6 Extractor hood.
- 6.7 Glass plate c. 300 mm × 400 mm × 10 mm.
- 6.8 Soft bristle brush.
- 6.9 Ultrasonic tank.
- 6.10 Polarized transmitted light optical microscope.
- 6.11 Point counter and image analysis system (if required).
- 6.12 Reactives and products as e.g.: emery with varying grain size (30 µm to 10 µm), epoxy resin, Canada balsam, supporting glass (at least 28 mm x48 mm x1,8 mm), cover glass (24 mm x32 mm), diamond disks, xylene and ethanol, amaranth, sodium cobaltinitrite, hydrofluoric acid, hydrochloric acid, sulphosodic alizarin.

To facilitate the identification of some minerals with similar colours or optical properties it might be necessary in many cases to use different techniques such as: selective mineral staining methods, optical cathodoluminescence, XRD, SEM-EDS or WDS microprobe. If required, these methods should be clearly stated in the working order referring to widely-referenced manuals, but taking into account that such additional techniques are not part of the petrographic analysis described in this standard.

7 Preparation of thin and polished sections

7.1 General

Sampling is not responsibility of the test laboratory except where specially requested.

The dimensions of the sample shall be large enough to be representative of the petrographic characteristics of the stone being examined.

One or more thin sections are then prepared.

A thin section is a portion of material mounted on a slide and mechanically reduced to a thin sheet measuring $0,030 \pm 0,005$ mm in thickness, and normally protected by a slide cover. For special purposes (observations under reflected light microscope for the determination of opaque minerals or microprobe analysis) polished thin sections shall be prepared. Polished sections have one side polished with a first polishing paste (in the range of ± 5 µm to 12 µm grade) and a second paste (in the range of ± 6 µm, 3 µm and 1 µm).

The section normally measures about 44 mm × 28 mm, but in the case of coarser grain size stones, larger dimensions may be used (e.g. 75 mm × 50 mm) or several sections of normal dimensions can be prepared. If the rock texture is anisotropic it is necessary to prepare at least two sections with different orientation with respect to the anisotropy (e.g. parallel and perpendicular to anisotropy planes).

Preparation of thick sections

The sample shall be sufficiently coherent so as not to disintegrate when cut. If the stone is brittle or fragile, it will be necessary to strengthen it by means of impregnation, preferably in a vacuum, with resins with an index of refraction approximately 1,54 (e.g. epoxy resins).

By using the rock saw, several small blocks are cut of dimensions in the range of at least ± 4 -5 cm × ± 3 -4 cm and thickness in the range of ± 3 to 4 mm thick. In case of porous samples pores are filled with Canada balsam (or any synthetic resin with approximately equivalent refractive index); the samples are then heated on the plate to approximately 100 °C and then cooled.

Blocks are then successively ground using diamond discs between 1 and 2 min depending on the type and hardness of their constituent minerals.

Preparation of thin sections

The detailed description of preparation of thin sections is given in Annex A (informative).

7.2 Staining

7.2.1 Feldspar staining

The detailed description of feldspar staining preparation and procedure is given in Annex B (informative).

7.2.2 Carbonate staining

If samples are suspected of containing carbonates, their selective staining can be carried out. Samples are etched with a HCl solution 1:20 and then immersed in a alizarine solution during 3 min. Then samples are washed with water and are left to dry in open air. Calcite will then stain with a dark red colour, dolomite will maintain its original colour and other carbonates will be stained between rose and violet colour depending on the case. It is possible to discriminate other carbonates than calcite using other chemical attacks, but this is not frequent.

8 Macroscopic description

Macroscopic description shall be carried out on fresh broken samples and, if considered necessary, on polished samples.

The following observations shall be included in the macroscopic description:

- a) The general colour or range of colours of the hand specimen. The colour can be estimated by visual impression or defined using a colour reference chart (Rock Colour Chart is recommended).
- b) Rock structure (joints, bedding, stylolites, etc).
- c) Grain size (e.g. coarse, medium or fine).
- d) Open and refilled macroscopic cracks, pores and cavities (when relevant).
- e) Evidence of weathering and alteration: staining by sulphide alteration, diffusion of iron hydroxides, alteration of feldspars etc. (when relevant).
- f) Presence of macrofossils (when relevant).
- g) Presence of xenolithic and/or autolithic inclusions (when relevant).

9 Microscopic description

9.1 General

The following observations shall be included in the microscopic description:

9.2 Fabric

As defined in EN 12670.

9.3 Constituents

9.3.1 Minerals/Grains

For the determination of the opaque minerals polished sections should be used.

For each mineral or grain identified, the characteristics listed below shall be specified (when relevant).

9.3.1.1 Percentage by volume (vol.%), specifying the method used (e.g. estimate, point counter). The detailed principle and procedure are given in Annex C (informative).

9.3.1.2 Dimensions: mean value and range of variation (if necessary for the groundmass and also for the larger crystals or grains). The range of sizes to be used will be: Very coarse (>10 mm), Coarse (4 mm - 10 mm), Medium (1 mm - 4 mm), Fine (<1 mm). These values could not be used for clastic rocks that require the widely-used Wentworth scale. In addition, the coarse-medium grain size limit for igneous rocks is placed at 5 mm. Degree of sorting (in clastic rocks): very well sorted, well sorted, moderately sorted, poorly sorted, very poorly sorted.

9.3.1.3 Habit (e.g. idiomorphic, anhedral).

9.3.1.4 Shape (e.g. isometric, anisometric, flattened, elongated). Detrital grains in sedimentary rocks shall be described in terms of sphericity and roundness.

NOTE For marble see also EN 16306 *Natural stone test methods — Determination of resistance of marble to thermal and moisture cycles*.

9.3.1.5 Boundaries (e.g. straight, lobate, dentate).

9.3.1.6 Distribution (e.g. homogeneous, heterogeneous, in layers, in patches).

9.3.1.7 Orientation (e.g. isotropic, shape preferred orientation, dimensional preferred orientation, isorientation of lamellar or tabular grains, isorientation of elongated, prismatic grains).

9.3.1.8 Evidence of weathering and alteration: staining by sulphide alteration, diffusion of iron hydroxides, chloritization of biotite; sericization of feldspars, radioactive decay of minerals such as zircon or allanite etc.

9.3.2 Groundmass.

9.3.2.1 In volcanic rocks mesostasis which can be glassy, hypocrystalline, microcrystalline, devitrified.

9.3.2.2 In sedimentary rocks have to be distinguished matrix (microcrystalline pelitic, carbonatic or silicic mud which includes grains when present, or fills the interstices) and cement (amorphous to crystalline materials partially or completely filling cavities).

9.3.3 Organogenic remains: e.g. organic or replaced (pyrite, apatite etc.) organogenic remains.

9.4 Discontinuities:

9.4.1 Pores, microcavities (size, shape, relative abundance and filling material if present).

9.4.2 Cracks and open fractures.

9.4.2.1 Width (most frequent value, minimum and maximum).

9.4.2.2 Length (most frequent value, minimum and maximum).

9.4.2.3 Type (intergranular, intragranular, transgranular)

9.4.2.4 Orientation.

9.4.2.5 Distribution.

9.4.3 Filled fractures and veins.

9.4.3.1 Width (most frequent value, minimum and maximum).

9.4.3.2 Length (most frequent value, minimum and maximum).

9.4.3.3 Type (intergranular, intragranular, transgranular).

9.4.3.4 Orientation.

9.4.3.5 Distribution.

9.4.3.6 Filling (extent, nature, structure).

9.4.3.7 Nature (e.g. stylolites, late veins).

9.5 Alterations:

9.5.1 Description of the minerals with alterations.

9.5.2 Alteration grade of the rock.

Templates for the petrographic description of the various types of rocks are given in EN 12670.

10 Petrographic classification

On the basis of the data generated from the macroscopic and microscopic examination relating to grain size, fabric, structure and mineralogical composition a petrographic classification shall be assigned to the stone sample, using EN 12670 and fixing at least the rock group/family.

If the petrographic description provides insufficient data to assign a petrographic classification, further testing may be necessary, namely chemical and minerochemical determinations.

11 Test report

The test report shall contain the following information:

- a) unique identification number for the report;
- b) number, title and date of issue of this European Standard;
- c) name and address of the test laboratory and the address of where the examination was carried out if different from the test laboratory;
- d) name and address of the client;
- e) it is the responsibility of the client to supply the following information: