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**Laminate floor coverings —  
Determination of locking strength for  
mechanically assembled panels**

*Revêtements de sol stratifiés — Détermination de la résistance à la traction des lames assemblées mécaniquement*

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# Contents

	Page
Foreword .....	iv
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Principle</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Apparatus</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Sampling and conditioning of panels</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>6 Testing</b> .....	<b>2</b>
6.1 Cutting of the short panel sides .....	2
6.2 Cutting of the long panel sides .....	3
6.3 Assembling of test specimens .....	4
6.4 Tensile testing .....	6
<b>7 Repetition testing</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>8 Expression of results</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>9 Test report</b> .....	<b>7</b>

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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 219, *Floor coverings*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 24334:2006), which has been technically revised.

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# Laminate floor coverings — Determination of locking strength for mechanically assembled panels

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of the locking strength of joints between laminate floor covering panels which are assembled with both vertical and horizontal mechanical locking systems.

## 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 undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 7500-1, *Metallic materials — Verification of static uniaxial testing machines — Part 1: Tension/compression testing machines — Verification and calibration of the force-measuring system*

## 3 Principle

Mechanically assembled panels with mechanical locking systems are pulled apart to an opening of 0,20 mm or until the lock breaks.

## 4 Apparatus

The following set of equipment is needed:

**4.1 Tensile testing machine**, verified and calibrated in accordance with ISO 7500-1 and conforming to class 3 for the force range which is applied for the locking strength measurement.

**4.2 External extensometer or optical measurement system**, with an accuracy of 0,01 mm.

**4.3 Two clamping devices**, attached to the tensile testing machine to hold the grippers.

NOTE Zwick/Roell clamps Type 8355<sup>1)</sup>, 20 kN are found suitable for the purpose.

**4.4 Two grippers**, 50 mm × 210 mm, attached to the clamping devices to hold the specimen with an anti-slip coating material (see [Figure 6](#) and [Figure 7](#)).

**4.5 Sliding calliper**, with an accuracy of 0,1 mm, to determine the length, width, and thickness of the specimen.

**4.6 Saw**, for cutting the specimen.

**4.7 Balance**, with an accuracy of 0,1 g.

1) Zwick/Roell clamps Type 8355 are examples of suitable products available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of these products. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

**4.8 Calibration plate**, iron steel 200 mm × 200 mm, (7 ± 1) mm thick, to adjust the clamping device coplanar in the tensile testing machine.

**5 Sampling and conditioning of panels**

Sample five panels, preferably from the same package, for the preparation of five test specimens for the short side locks and five for the long side locks. If panel dimensions allow it, the sampling of the short side and the long side can come from the same panel.

The panels from which the test specimens are cut shall be conditioned to a constant mass at (50 ± 5) % relative humidity (RH) and (23 ± 2) °C.

Constant mass is considered to be reached when the results of two successive weighing operations, carried out at an interval of 24 h, do not differ more than 0,1 % of the mass of the panels.

**6 Testing**

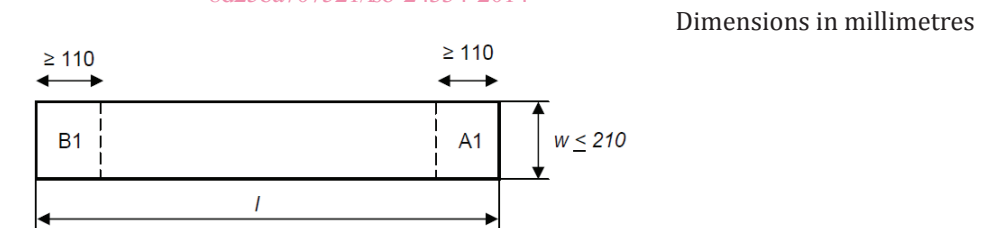
**6.1 Cutting of the short panel sides**

Cut two specimens, A1 and B1, from each panel. The length of the specimen shall be a minimum of 110 mm (to fit the machine).

If the width of the panel is equal to or less than 210 mm, but more than 100 mm, the actual width shall be used in the specimen (see [Figure 1](#)).

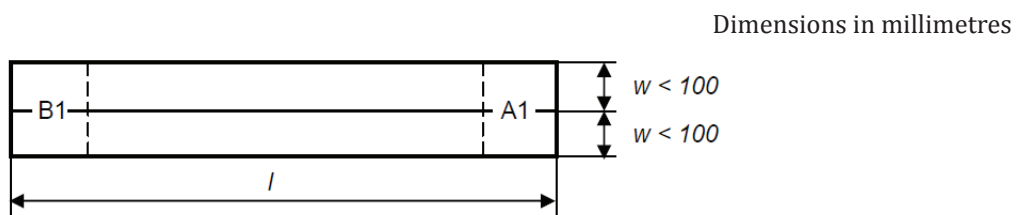
If the width of the panel is less than 100 mm, the long-side profiles of two panels shall be glued together. The new actual width shall be used in the specimen (see [Figure 2](#)).

If the width of the panel is more than 210 mm, the specimen shall be cut down to a width of 200 ± 10 mm (see [Figure 3](#)).



- Key**
- l surface dimension, length of panel
  - w surface dimension, width of panel
  - A1, B1 test specimens

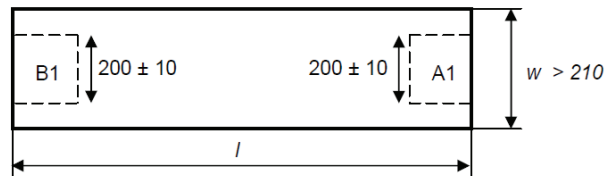
**Figure 1 — Cutting of panels for short side testing (w > 100 mm and ≤ 210 mm)**



- Key**
- l surface dimension, length of panel

w surface dimension, width of panel  
 A1, B1 test specimens

**Figure 2 — Cutting of panels for short side testing ( $w < 100$  mm)**



Dimensions in millimetres

**Key**

l surface dimension, length of panel  
 w surface dimension, width of panel  
 A1, B1 test specimens

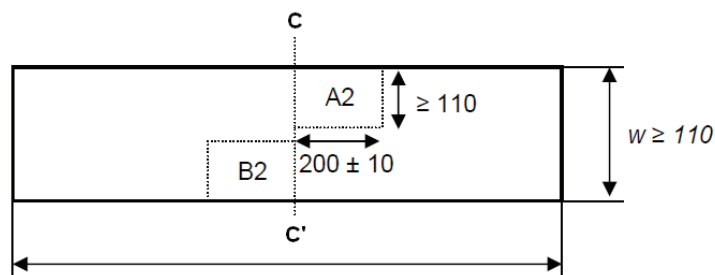
**Figure 3 — Cutting of panels for short side testing ( $w > 210$  mm)**

**6.2 Cutting of the long panel sides**

Cut two test specimens, A2 and B2, from each panel. The length of the specimen shall be  $(200 \pm 10)$  mm and the width shall be a minimum of 110 mm (to fit the machine).

If the width of the panel is more than or equal to 110 mm, the specimen shall be cut from the centre line of the panel (see [Figure 4](#)).

If the width of the panel is less than 110 mm, the long-side profiles of two panels shall be glued together and the specimen should be cut from the centre line of the panel (see [Figure 5](#)).



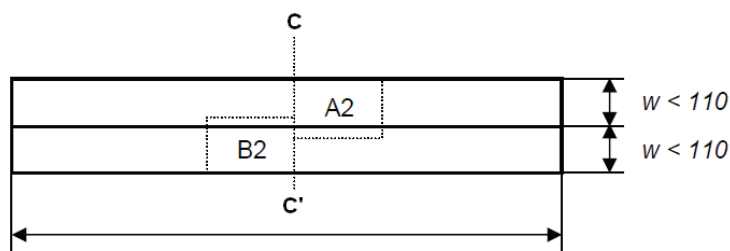
Dimensions in millimetres

**Key**

l surface dimension, length of panel  
 w Surface dimension, width of panel  
 C-C' centre line of the panel  
 A2, B2 test specimens

**Figure 4 — Cutting of panels for long side testing ( $w \geq 110$  mm)**

Dimensions in millimetres



**Key**

- l surface dimension, length of panel
- w Surface dimension, width of panel
- C-C' centre line of the panel
- A2, B2 test specimens

**Figure 5 — Cutting of panels for long side testing ( $w < 110$  mm)**

**6.3 Assembling of test specimens**

**6.3.1 Assembling of short side specimens**

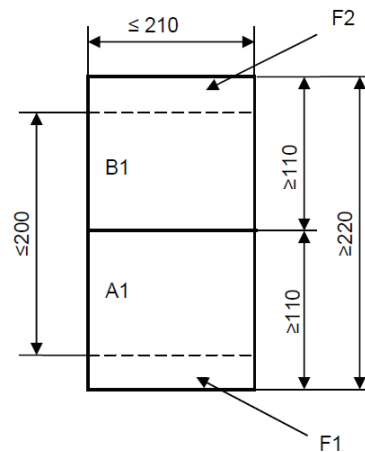
Measure the width of A1 and B1 to the nearest millimetre and their thickness to the nearest 0,1 mm.

As shown in [Figure 1](#), [Figure 2](#), and [Figure 3](#), connect the short side lock from A1 and B1 according to the fitting instruction from the manufacturer.

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Dimensions in millimetres

**Key**

- F1 attachment area 1 for the first gripper
- F2 attachment area 2 for the second gripper
- A1, B1 test specimens

**Figure 6 — Assembled test piece for short side testing**

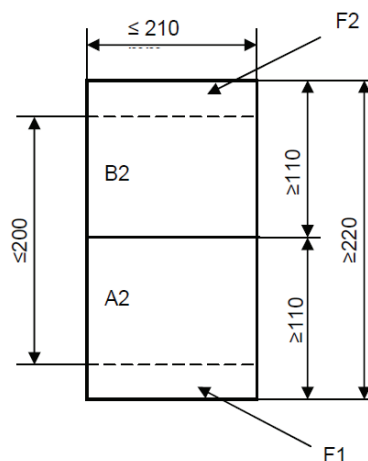
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**6.3.2 Assembling of long side specimens**

Measuring of A2 and B2 to the nearest millimetre and their thickness to the nearest 0,1 mm.

As shown in [Figure 4](#) and [Figure 5](#) connect the long side lock from A2 and B2 according to the fitting instructions from the manufacturer.

Dimensions in millimetres

**Key**

- F1 attachment area 1 for the first gripper
- F2 attachment area 2 for the second gripper
- A2, B2 test specimens

**Figure 7 — Assembled test piece for long side testing**