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Geosynthetics — Screening test method for determining the resistance of geotextiles and geotextile-related products to oxidation

Géosynthétiques — Méthode de détermination de la résistance des géotextiles et produits apparentés à l'oxydation

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Foreword

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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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 221, *Geosynthetics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13438:2004), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— procedural guidance regarding the use of exposure ovens has been added;

— procedural guidance regarding the use of autoclaves has been added.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

In many civil engineering applications, geotextiles and geotextile-related products can come into contact with water or aqueous solutions present in the soil environment. At the same time, in specific parts of the construction, they can be exposed to oxygen, giving rise to oxidative degradation processes. These processes are usually very slow.

Polyolefin materials, such as polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE), are inherently more sensitive to oxidation than those based on polyethylene terephthalate (PET). Other polymers, such as poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVAL according to ISO 1043-1), are also sensitive to oxidation in specific conditions (aqueous media with oxidizing agent). This behaviour can be improved very effectively by the use of appropriate stabilizing additives.

It is the purpose of this document to provide a method for screening the resistance to oxidation of geotextiles and geotextile-related products in service for 25, 50 and 100 years. In order to achieve the sufficiently short exposure times needed for screening tests, the oxidative degradation process is accelerated. This acceleration can be achieved either by raising the temperature or by increasing the concentration of the active reaction partner. Raising the temperature can lead to the oxidation rate being limited by oxygen diffusion, thus invalidating the acceleration. This applies particularly to materials with a low surface-to-volume ratio and less to nonwovens made from fine fibres. Two methods are therefore proposed.

Method A (which was Method B in the previous edition) uses temperature alone as the accelerating factor and is used for PE, PP, PA and AR.

Method B operates at moderately high temperatures and, at the same time, the oxygen concentration is increased by using pure oxygen at high pressure. Method B is used for PVAL.