
Thermal performance of curtain walling — Calculation of thermal transmittance

*Performance thermique des façades-rideaux — Calcul du coefficient
de transmission thermique*

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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. 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. 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 voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: <http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html>

ISO 12631 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 89, *Thermal performance of buildings and building components*, in collaboration with ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Calculation methods*, in accordance with the agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 12631:2012) which has been technically revised. The necessary editorial revisions were made to comply with the requirements for the EPB set of standards.

In addition, the following clauses and subclauses of the previous version have been technically revised:

- Annex G and Annex H were deleted and moved to the technical report;
- Tabulated values in [Annex D](#) were checked and revised where necessary.

Introduction

This document is part of a series of standards aiming at international harmonization of the methodology for the assessment of the energy performance of buildings, called “set of EPB standards”.

All EPB standards follow specific rules to ensure overall consistency, unambiguity and transparency.

All EPB standards provide a certain flexibility with regard to the methods, the required input data and references to other EPB standards, by the introduction of a normative template in [Annex A](#) and [Annex B](#) with informative default choices.

For the correct use of this document a normative template is given in [Annex A](#) to specify these choices. Informative default choices are provided in [Annex B](#).

The main target groups of this document are manufacturers of curtain wallings.

Use by or for regulators: In case the document is used in the context of national or regional legal requirements, mandatory choices may be given at national or regional level for such specific applications. These choices (either the informative default choices from [Annex B](#) or choices adapted to national / regional needs, but in any case following the template of this [Annex A](#)) can be made available as national annex or as separate (e.g. legal) document (national data sheet).

NOTE 1 So in this case:

- the regulators will specify the choices;
- the individual user will apply the document to assess the energy performance of a building, and thereby use the choices made by the regulators.

Topics addressed in this document can be subject to public regulation. Public regulation on the same topics can override the default values in [Annex B](#) of this document. Public regulation on the same topics can even, for certain applications, override the use of this document. Legal requirements and choices are in general not published in standards but in legal documents. In order to avoid double publications and difficult updating of double documents, a national annex may refer to the legal texts where national choices have been made by public authorities. Different national annexes or national data sheets are possible, for different applications.

It is expected, if the default values, choices and references to other EPB standards in [Annex B](#) are not followed due to national regulations, policy or traditions, that

- national or regional authorities prepare data sheets containing the choices and national or regional values, according to the model in [Annex A](#). In this case a national annex (e.g. NA) is recommended, containing a reference to these data sheets;
- or, by default, the national standards body will consider the possibility to add or include a national annex in agreement with the template of [Annex A](#), in accordance to the legal documents that give national or regional values and choices.

Further target groups are parties wanting to motivate their assumptions by classifying the building energy performance for a dedicated building stock.

More information is provided in the Technical Report accompanying this document (ISO/TR 52022-2).

The design and construction of curtain wall systems is complex. This document specifies a procedure for calculating the thermal transmittance of curtain wall structures.

Curtain walls often contain different kinds of materials, joined in different ways, and can exhibit numerous variations of geometrical shape. With such a complex structure, the likelihood of producing thermal bridges across the curtain wall envelope is quite high.

The results of calculations, carried out following the procedures specified in this document, can be used for comparison of the thermal transmittance of different types of curtain wall or as part of the

input data for calculating the heat used in a building. This document is not suitable for determining whether or not condensation will occur on the structure surfaces nor within the structure itself. Two methods are given in this document:

- single assessment method (see [Clause 7](#));
- component assessment method (see [Clause 8](#)).

Guidance on the use of these two methods is given in [Clause 6](#). Calculation examples for these two methods are given in ISO/TR 52022-2.

Testing according to ISO 12567-1:2010 is an alternative to this calculation method.

The thermal effects of connections to the main building structure as well as fixing lugs can be calculated according to ISO 10211.

The thermal transmittance of the frame, U_f , is defined according to ISO 10077-2 or EN 12412-2 together with [Annex D](#). The thermal transmittance of glazing units, U_g , is defined according to ISO 10291, ISO 10292, ISO 10293 (or see Subjects 1, 2 and 3 in [Table C.1](#)¹⁾) which do not include the edge effects. The thermal interaction of the frame and the filling element is included in the linear thermal transmittance Ψ which is derived using the procedures specified in ISO 10077-2.

[Table 1](#) shows the relative position of this document within the set of EPB standards in the context of the modular structure as set out in ISO 52000-1.

NOTE 2 In ISO/TR 52000-2, the same table can be found, with, for each module, the numbers of the relevant EPB standards and accompanying technical reports that are published or in preparation.

NOTE 3 The modules represent EPB standards, although one EPB standard could cover more than one module and one module could be covered by more than one EPB standard, for instance, a simplified and a detailed method respectively.

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1) See [Table C.1](#) for alternative references in line with ISO Global Relevance Policy.

Table 1 — Position of this document (*in casu* M2–5), within the modular structure of the set of EPB standards

Submodule	Overarching		Building (as such)		Technical Building Systems									
	Descriptions		Descriptions		De-scriptions	Heat-ing	Cool-ing	Ven-tilation	Hu-mid-ifi-cation	De-hu-mid-ification	Do-mes-tic Hot water	Light-ing	Build-ing automa-tion and control	PV, wind
sub1		M1		M2		M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11
1	General		General		General									
2	Common terms and definitions; symbols, units and subscripts		Building energy needs		Needs								a	
3	Applications		(Free) indoor conditions without systems		Maxi-mum load and power									
4	Ways to express energy performance		Ways to express energy performance		Ways to express energy performance									
5	Building categories and building boundaries		Heat transfer by transmission	ISO 12631	Emission and control									
6	Building occupancy and operating conditions		Heat transfer by infiltration and ventilation		Distribution and control									
7	Aggregation of energy services and energy carriers		Internal heat gains		Storage and control									

^a The shaded modules are not applicable.

Table 1 (continued)

Submodule	Overarching		Building (as such)		Technical Building Systems									
	Descriptions	M1	Descriptions	M2	De-scriptions	Heat-ing	Cool-ing	Ven-tila-tion	Hu-mid-ifi-cati-on	De-hu-mid-ifica-tion	Do-mes-tic Hot water	Light-ing	Build-ing automa-tion and control	PV, wind
sub1		M1		M2		M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11
8	Building zoning		Solar heat gains		Generation and control									
9	Calculated energy performance		Building dynamics (thermal mass)		Load dispatching and operating conditions									
10	Measured energy performance		Measured energy performance		Measured energy performance									
11	Inspection		Inspection		Inspection									
12	Ways to express indoor comfort				BMS									
13	External environment conditions													
14	Economic calculation													

^a The shaded modules are not applicable.

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Thermal performance of curtain walling — Calculation of thermal transmittance

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for calculating the thermal transmittance of curtain walls consisting of glazed and/or opaque panels fitted in, or connected to, frames.

The calculation includes:

- different types of glazing, e.g. glass or plastic; single or multiple glazing; with or without low emissivity coating; with cavities filled with air or other gases;
- frames (of any material) with or without thermal breaks;
- different types of opaque panels clad with metal, glass, ceramics or any other material.

Thermal bridge effects at the rebate or connection between the glazed area, the frame area and the panel area are included in the calculation.

The calculation does not include:

- effects of solar radiation;
- heat transfer caused by air leakage;
- calculation of condensation;
- effect of shutters;
- additional heat transfer at the corners and edges of the curtain walling;
- connections to the main building structure nor through fixing lugs;
- curtain wall systems with integrated heating.

NOTE [Table 1](#) in the Introduction shows the relative position of this document within the set of EPB standards in the context of the modular structure as set out in ISO 52000-1.

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.

ISO 6946, *Building components and building elements — Thermal resistance and thermal transmittance — Calculation method*

ISO 7345, *Thermal insulation — Physical quantities and definitions*

ISO 9488, *Solar energy — Vocabulary*

ISO 10077-1, *Thermal performance of windows, doors and shutters — Calculation of thermal transmittance — Part 1: General*

ISO 10077-2, *Thermal performance of windows, doors and shutters — Calculation of thermal transmittance — Part 2: Numerical method for frames*

ISO 12631:2017(E)

ISO 10211, *Thermal bridges in building construction — Heat flows and surface temperatures — Detailed calculations*

ISO 10291, *Glass in building — Determination of steady-state U values (thermal transmittance) of multiple glazing — Guarded hot plate method*

ISO 10292, *Glass in building — Calculation of steady-state U values (thermal transmittance) of multiple glazing*

ISO 10293, *Glass in building — Determination of steady-state U values (thermal transmittance) of multiple glazing — Heat flow meter method*

ISO 10456, *Building materials and products — Hygrothermal properties — Tabulated design values and procedures for determining declared and design thermal values*

ISO 12567-1, *Thermal performance of windows and doors — Determination of thermal transmittance by the hot-box method — Part 1: Complete windows and doors*

ISO 52000-1:2017, *Energy performance of buildings — Overarching EPB assessment — Part 1: General framework and procedures*

EN 673, *Glass in building — Determination of thermal transmittance (U value) — Calculation method*

EN 674, *Glass in building — Determination of thermal transmittance (U value) — Guarded hot plate method*

EN 675, *Glass in building — Determination of thermal transmittance (U value) — Heat flow meter method*

EN 12412-2, *Thermal performance of windows, doors and shutters — Determination of thermal transmittance by hot-box method — Part 2: Frames*

NOTE Default references to EPB standards other than ISO 52000-1 are identified by the EPB module code number and given in [Annex A](#) (normative template [ISO Table A.01](#)) and [Annex B](#) (informative default choice in [Table B.1](#)).

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EXAMPLE EPB module code number: M5-5, or M5-5.1 (if module M5-5 is subdivided), or M5-5/1 (if reference to a specific clause of the standard covering M5-5).

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 6946, ISO 7345, ISO 9488, ISO 52000-1 and the following apply.

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

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

NOTE [Clause 4](#) includes descriptions of a number of geometrical characteristics of glazing units, frame sections and panels.

3.1 EPB standard

standard that complies with the requirements given in ISO 52000-1, CEN/TS 16628^[3] and CEN/TS 16629^[4]

Note 1 to entry: These three basic EPB documents were developed under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (Mandate M/480), and support essential requirements of EU Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings (EPBD). Several EPB standards and related documents are developed or revised under the same mandate.

[SOURCE: ISO 52000-1:2017, definition 3.5.14]

4 Symbols and subscripts

4.1 Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the symbols given in ISO 52000-1 and the following apply.

Symbol	Quantity	Unit
A	area	m ²
A^*	Area as specified in figure 8	m ²
T	thermodynamic temperature	K
U	thermal transmittance	W/(m ² ·K)
l	length	m
d	depth	m
Φ	heat flow rate	W
Ψ	linear thermal transmittance	W/(m·K)
Δ	difference	
Σ	summation	
ε	emissivity	

4.2 Subscripts

For the purposes of this document, the subscripts given in ISO 52000-1 and the following apply.

cw	curtain walling	m,f	mullion/frame
d	developed	m,g	mullion/glazing
e	external	n	normal
eq	equivalent	p	panel (opaque)
f	frame	s	screw
f,g	frame/glazing	t	transom
FE	filling element	t,f	transom/frame
g	glazing	t,g	transom/glazing
i	internal	tot	total
j	joint	TJ	thermal joint at a connection between two filling elements
m	mullion	W	window

4.3 Superscripts

Definition of areas for length-related treatment of thermal joints (see [7.3.1.2](#)).

5 Description of the methods

5.1 Output of the method

The output of this document is the thermal transmittance of a curtain wall consisting of glazed and/or opaque panels fitted in a frame.

5.2 General description

In general, the thermal transmittance or U -value of the curtain walling is calculated as a function of the thermal transmittance of the components and their geometrical characteristics, plus the thermal interactions between the components.

- The calculation procedures depend on the composition of the product or assembly;
- Components may include (where appropriate): glazings, opaque panels, frames, mullions, transoms;
- Thermal interactions are lateral heat flow (linear thermal bridge effect) between adjacent components and surface and cavity thermal resistances (thermal radiation and convection);
- The geometrical characteristics concern the sizes and positions of the components.

Throughout this document, where indicated in the text, [Table C.1](#) shall be used to identify alternative regional references in line with ISO Global Relevance Policy.

5.3 Geometrical characteristics

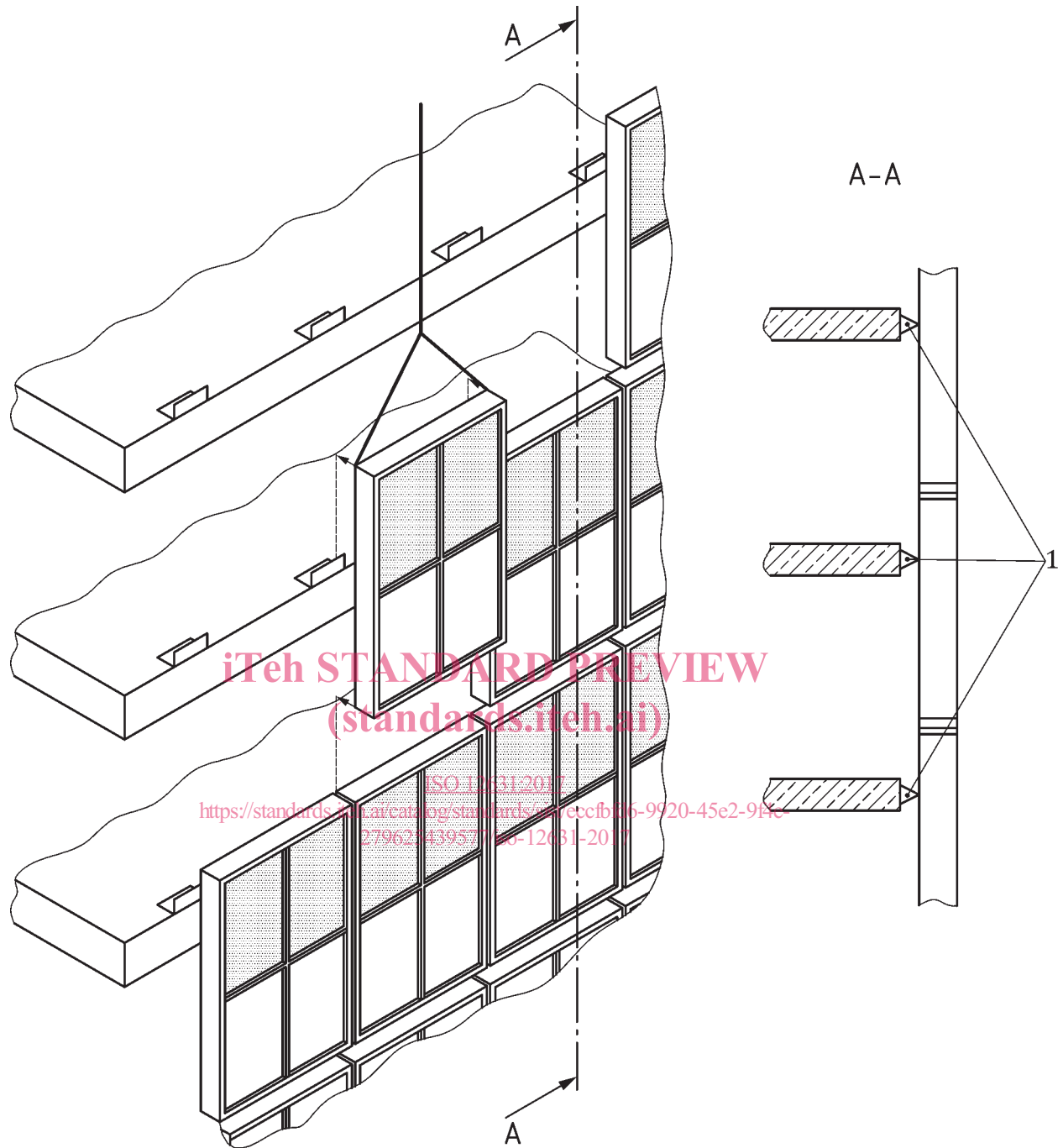
5.3.1 Main principles

The main principles of curtain walling are shown in [Figures 1](#) and [2](#).

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Key

- 1 structure fixing bracket

Figure 1 — Principle of curtain walling construction: unitised construction