

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

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## **Nanotechnologies — Air filter media containing polymeric nanofibres — Specification of characteristics and measurement methods**

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## Contents

	Page
<b>Foreword</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Abbreviated terms</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5 Characteristics to be measured and their measurement methods</b>	<b>3</b>
5.1 General	3
5.2 Mandatory and optional characteristics and their measurement methods	3
5.3 Descriptions on characteristics and their measurement methods	4
5.3.1 General	4
5.3.2 Fibre diameter	4
5.3.3 Morphology	4
5.3.4 Specific surface area	4
5.3.5 Chemical composition content	5
5.3.6 Thermal stability	5
5.3.7 Crystalline structure	5
5.3.8 Crystallinity	5
5.3.9 Crystallite size	6
<b>6 Reporting</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Annex A (informative) Typical structures of air filter media containing nanofibres</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Test report format for mandatory characteristics</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Test report format for optional characteristics</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>11</b>

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## Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 229, *Nanotechnologies*.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

Air filter media play an important role in the performance and efficiency of different types of air filters. In this respect, most air filter media take advantage of nonwovens to separate solid or liquid particles. Air filter media have a wide range of applications such as gas turbine inlet air, industrial dust collectors, respiratory masks, personal protective equipment, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, cleanrooms, etc.

In recent years, air filter media containing nanofibres have been commercialized and widely used by different industries due to their high filtration efficiency along with a low pressure drop created by the slip flow effect<sup>[6]</sup>. Air filter media containing nanofibres are normally produced by depositing one or more types of polymer-based nanofibres directly on the surface of a suitable porous substrate during spinning.

Since the diameter of nanofibres is significantly smaller than that of conventional microfibres employed in filters, it offers a higher chance of inertial impaction and interception, i.e. a more optimum filtration efficiency. The slip flow also results in a reduced pressure drop and more contaminants passing near the surface of the nanofibres. Hence, the inertial impaction and interception efficiencies rise. As a result, the filtration capability of the nanofibres layer increases for the same pressure drop as compared with a conventional fibre layer. Additionally, the very high surface area of nanofibres facilitates the adsorption of contaminants from the air. All these desirable features have led to a wide range of air filter media containing nanofibres being used for air filtration applications<sup>[6][7][8]</sup>.

Different techniques such as electrospinning, force spinning and other methods have been used to produce air filter media containing nanofibres. The deposited nanofibres form a web-like nonwoven layer on the surface of the substrate. Nanofibres can exhibit different crystalline structures, morphology and diameter. The surface area and crossed-fibres porosity of the formed nonwoven layer is mainly affected by the nanofibre diameter as well as the morphology. Polymeric nanofibres such as polyamide, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF), polyacrylonitrile (PAN) and polyurethane (PU) are normally used for air filter media. Nanofibres can be deposited on different kinds of woven and nonwoven substrates. [Annex A](#) shows a schematic of the cross-section of an air filter medium (see [Figure A.1](#)) and SEM images relating to the morphology of the nanofibres (see [Figures A.2](#) and [A.3](#)).

<https://www.iso.org/standard/63755.html> This document facilitates the communication between sellers and buyers and supports the growing trade of this new class of air filter media.

