
**General methods of test for pigments
and extenders —**

Part 15:
**Comparison of resistance to light of
coloured pigments of similar types**

Méthodes générales d'essai des pigments et matières de charge —

*Partie 15: Comparaison de la résistance à la lumière des pigments
colorés de types semblables*

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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).

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).

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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: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 256, *Pigments, dyestuffs and extenders*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 787-15:1986), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- [Clause 3](#) on “Terms and definitions”, with a general reference to ISO 18451-1, has been added;
- a bibliography has been added;
- the text has been editorially revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO 787 series can be found on the ISO website.

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

The terms “resistance to light” and “light fastness (or colour fastness)” describe the resistance of a material to change in its appearance as a result of exposure to light. The magnitude of the change, if any, is influenced by the quantity and quality of the light to which the material is exposed, and by the nature and composition of the material itself. Two compositions, each consisting of identical components but in different proportions, may not have the same resistance to light. Also, two compositions each consisting of the same proportions of similar, but not identical, components may not have the same resistance to light.

When exposed to natural light, the conditions of the test vary continuously because of the large number of variables (for example intensity and spectral distribution of the light, temperature, relative humidity, and the amount and nature of atmospheric contaminants) and therefore results cannot be related to similar tests carried out on other occasions. Consequently, expressing the results as a function of time alone is not recommended.

These considerations form the basis for the comparison of light fastness of two different samples of a coloured pigment. Each sample is incorporated in the same proportion in otherwise identical compositions and these compositions, in a suitable form, are examined for any difference in their change of appearance after exposure to the same quantity and quality of light. In order to comply with these exposure conditions, it is necessary for the compositions to be exposed side by side at the same time to the same light source for the same period of time.

In addition, the light fastness of a pigment may be affected by the presence of other pigments such as titanium dioxide. This important aspect may be accommodated in document by allowing the agreed binder (medium) to consist of a dispersion of such a pigment. The test procedure is then followed as described.

The extent, to which the change on exposure is allowed to proceed before the comparison is made, may be of importance. It is unrealistic to assess the exposures when the change is only equivalent to the first perceptible change, but it is also inadvisable to wait until the amount of change is large. Thus, it is recommended that comparisons of change of appearance be made when the amount of change of the pigment with known resistance to light (agreed reference pigment) is equal to fastness grade 4 and 3 of the grey scale in accordance with ISO 105-A02.

For any particular application, the method of test described in this document should be completed by the following supplementary information. This information should be derived, in part or totally, from a national or an international standard or other document related to the product under test or, if appropriate, should be agreed between the interested parties.

- a) Type and identification of the agreed reference pigment.
- b) The binder (medium) for dispersion of the test sample and the agreed reference pigment and details of the composition of the dispersion.
- c) The method of dispersion to be used.
- d) Whether the test is to be carried out under natural exposure (method A) or artificial light (method B).
- e) If method A is to be used, the exposure angle of the test specimens and glass cover.
- f) If method B is to be used, the details of the apparatus and of the light source.

