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**Leather — Physical and mechanical
test methods for the determination of
soiling —**

**Part 1:
Rubbing (Martindale) method**

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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).

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).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by the Physical Tests Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUP Commission, IULTCS) in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, the secretariat of which is held by UNI, in accordance with the agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for sampling and the testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 26082-1:2012), 5.9 to 5.15 and Clause 9 of which have been technically revised.

A list of all parts in the ISO 26082 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.

Leather — Physical and mechanical test methods for the determination of soiling —

Part 1: Rubbing (Martindale) method

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for determining the resistance of all forms of leather to visible soiling through repeated contact with soiled objects. It provides a physical pretreatment routine for leathers that may be vulnerable to loss of soiling resistance while in service, prior to conducting further tests such as cleaning.

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 105-A02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02: Grey scale for assessing change in colour*

ISO 105-A05, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A05: Instrumental assessment of change in colour for determination of grey scale rating*

ISO 105-F09, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F09: Specification for cotton rubbing cloth*

ISO 2418, *Leather — Chemical, physical and mechanical and fastness tests — Sampling location*

ISO 2419, *Leather — Physical and mechanical tests — Sample preparation and conditioning*

ISO 11640, *Leather — Tests for colour fastness — Colour fastness to cycles of to-and-fro rubbing*

ISO 12945-2, *Textiles — Determination of fabric propensity to surface fuzzing and to pilling — Part 2: Modified Martindale method*

ISO 12947-1, *Textiles — Determination of the abrasion resistance of fabrics by the Martindale method — Part 1: Martindale abrasion testing apparatus*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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

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

3.1

soiling

change in colour of a leather specimen caused by rubbing a standard soiled fabric on the coated surface of the leather

4 Principle

A test specimen of leather is subjected to a rubbing-type soiling process under standard conditions and the change in colour of the leather is evaluated.

A pretreatment to simulate wear and/or an after-treatment to test cleaning procedures is possible.

5 Apparatus and materials

Normal laboratory apparatus and, in particular, the following.

5.1 Martindale abrasion apparatus, as specified in ISO 12947-1.

5.2 Abrasion specimen holder heads, for the Martindale apparatus (5.1) as defined in ISO 12947-1. The holder shall be fitted with loading pieces so that the sum of the mass of the applied load and the mass of the specimen holder assembly is (795 ± 10) g. This exerts a nominal pressure of 12 kPa on the test specimen during the test.

Use the abrasion option that forms a Lissajous figure with a (60 ± 1) mm stroke.

5.3 Pilling specimen holder heads, for the Martindale apparatus (5.1), including the auxiliary mandrel device for specimen mounting, as defined in ISO 12945-2. The pilling specimen holder shall be fitted with ring weight and the nominal 12 kPa loading piece (as in 5.2), so that the sum of the mass of the applied load and the mass of the specimen holder assembly is (1010 ± 15) g. This exerts a nominal pressure of 1,6 kPa on the test specimen during the test.

The use of the mandrel is necessary to correctly mount the soiling cloth on the holder and to avoid contact with the soiling surface of the cloth.

Use the abrasion option that traces a Lissajous figure with a (60 ± 1) mm stroke. It should be noted that this stroke differs from the standard machine setting for the textile pilling test.

NOTE This might not be possible with all Martindale machines, particularly old machines.

5.4 Circular sample cutters, for the specimen and soiling cloth. One cutter with a diameter of at least 140 mm and another with a diameter of at least 38 mm.

5.5 Standard soiling cloth, cut to a diameter of either

- at least 38 mm for the abrasion specimen holder of the Martindale apparatus (5.2), or
- at least 140 mm for the pilling specimen holder of the Martindale apparatus (5.3).

The standard soiling test cloth is impregnated with a soilant mix of carbon black and olive oil. Alternative soiling cloths can be specified by the client.

NOTE Various standard soiling cloths are commercially available, see [Annex A](#).

5.6 Polyetherurethane foam underlay, as specified in ISO 12947-1, cut to a diameter of at least 38 mm, for the abrasion specimen holder of the Martindale apparatus (5.2).

5.7 Wool felt underlay, as specified in ISO 12945-2, cut to a diameter of (90 ± 1) mm, for the pilling specimen holder (5.3). This is available pre-cut to size.

5.8 Wool felt underlay, as specified in ISO 12947-1, cut to a diameter of at least 140 mm, for the abrading table of the Martindale apparatus (5.1).

5.9 Rub fastness tester, as specified in ISO 11640, for optional automated cleaning.

5.10 White wool felt, 15 mm × 15 mm, as defined in ISO 11640, for optional automated cleaning.

5.11 Cotton cloth, 100 mm × 100 mm, as specified in ISO 105-F09.

5.12 Cleaning solution: 0,5 % aqueous solution of sodium lauryl ether sulfate (Texapon NSO®) CAS-No. 9004-82-4. The concentration of 0,5 % refers to the concentration of the active substance.

5.13 Double-sided adhesive tape, suitable to fix the flesh side of leather and cardboard.

5.14 Cardboard, with a diameter of 140 mm and a thickness of about 0,5 mm to 0,8 mm.

5.15 Grey scale for measuring change in colour, conforming to ISO 105-A02, or an **instrumental system for measuring change in colour**, conforming to ISO 105-A05, or both.

For very lightly coloured leather samples, it is more suitable to use the grey scale for measuring staining, conforming to ISO 105-A03, or an instrumental system for measuring staining, conforming to ISO 105-A04, or both.

6 Sampling and sample preparation

6.1 Prior to cutting the test specimens, condition the leather in accordance with ISO 2419.

6.2 Using the circular cutting device (5.4), cut two circular test specimens measuring not less than 140 mm in diameter out of the leather piece. Set aside one test specimen as the unsoiled reference.

If the leather piece available for testing is a whole hide or skin, sample the test specimens in accordance with standard procedures given in ISO 2418.

7 Pretreatment wearing procedures

In particular situations, at the client's request, it may be instructive to test the specimen after it has been subject to simulated wear. Pieces of leather may, for example, first be subjected to a repeated flexing treatment in a suitable machine prior to the soiling testing. Or the leather test specimen may, for example, be subjected to an appropriate abrasion treatment prior to the soiling testing.

8 Procedure using a standard soiling cloth

8.1 The soiling procedure takes place on the abrading table of the Martindale abrasion machine (5.1). The leather test specimen backed with the wool felt underlay (5.8) is fitted on the abrading table (lower position) with the leather test side facing upwards. Check the leather specimen and backing wool felt are centrally positioned in the clamp of the abrading table.

8.2 The standard soiling cloth (5.5), backed with the appropriate underlay, shall be fitted to the specimen holder head (upper position) of the Martindale abrasion machine (5.1). The size of the specimen holder head to be used shall be specified by the client, either

- according to ISO 12945-2 for the larger pilling specimen holder head (5.3) with a circular soiling cloth surface of approximately 90 mm diameter, or
- according to ISO 12947-1 for the smaller abrasion specimen holder head (5.2) with a circular soiling cloth surface of approximately 28 mm diameter.

NOTE 1 The larger size of the soiling cloth for the pilling holder means that heavier soiling will normally occur when this holder is used. However, the levelness of the soiling on the test specimen is considerably better and the larger size is the preferred option.

Use a piece of wool felt underlay (5.7) for the pilling specimen holder head. For the abrasion specimen holder head, use a new piece of foam underlay (5.6) for each change of the soiling cloth.

Check that the machine settings for the Lissajous figure stroke is (60 ± 1) mm.

NOTE 2 The machine setting for the stroke of 60 mm is used for both sizes of the specimen holder. This gives a much better levelness of soiling on the specimen when compared with the 24 mm stroke, which is the standard machine setting for the textile pilling test.

8.3 Add the loading piece so as to bring the total mass (i.e. of the soiling-cloth holder and the loading piece) applied to the test specimen to that defined in either 5.2 or 5.3, depending on the type of holder head. Place the soiling-cloth holder head on the leather test specimen and immediately carry out 250 abrasion rubs (as defined in ISO 12947-1) of the Martindale tester.

NOTE The number of abrasion rubs can be changed if specified by the client.

8.4 On completion of the required number of abrasion rubs, remove the soiling-cloth holder from the leather and remove the leather test specimen from the abrading table.

8.5 Visually assess the colour difference between the leather test specimen subjected to soiling and the reference leather test specimen using the appropriate change in colour grey scale in accordance with ISO 105-A02, (see 5.9).

To assist in visually assessing the grey scale rating, the circular soiled and reference specimens should be cut in half and placed adjacent to each other (see Figures A.1 and A.2).

The grey scale colour difference can be instrumentally assessed according to ISO 105-A05, (see 5.9).

NOTE The results will depend on the colour of the leather. For example, dark colours will appear to soil less and light colours will appear to soil more.

8.6 Visually assess any change in appearance or hue, or both, of the test piece in comparison with the reference specimen.

9 Cleaning after-treatment to evaluate residual soiling

9.1 General instructions

In particular situations at the client's request, it may be informative to evaluate the degree of residual soiling by testing the ease of cleaning the soiled surface of the specimen. This can be done either directly after the specimen has been subject to soiling or after the soiled specimen has been subjected to an ageing test.

The soiled test specimen can be cleaned either by a manual (9.2) or automated (9.3) cleaning process according to the cleaning procedure which has been agreed with the client. The specimens shall be stored after cleaning under standard climate conditions for at least 16 h. The change in colour after cleaning shall be determined afterwards as in 8.5 and 8.6.

9.2 Manual cleaning

For manual cleaning soak the cotton cloth (5.11) with the cleaning solution (5.12) and squeeze it out slightly. Clean from the outside to the inside using circular motions with a slight pressure. Adjust the intensity of the cleaning to the deformation behaviour of the material. Repeat the cleaning until the cleaning cloth is no longer stained by the soil from the specimen.

9.3 Cleaning using a rub fastness tester

Fix the specimens with the flesh side on the cardboard (5.14) using the double-sided adhesive tape (5.13). Clamp the specimen with the cardboard in the rub fastness tester (5.9). Do not apply any elongation to the specimen.

Apply 1 g of the cleaning solution to the felt (5.10), attach the felt to the finger of the rub fastness tester and rub 10 cycles. Remove the finger with the wet felt immediately and repeat this procedure three times with a new felt (containing 1 g cleaning solution) each time. Immediately after cleaning with the four wetted pieces of felt, rub 10 cycles with a dry felt on the same rubbing trace.

NOTE It is not necessary to assess the staining of the wool felts. The felts can be discarded.

10 Test report

The test report shall include at least the following information:

- a) a reference to this document, i.e. ISO 26082-1;
- b) a description of the type of leather tested;
- c) details of any wearing pretreatment carried out;
- d) details of any cleaning after-treatment carried out;
- e) details of the soiling cloth used;
- f) details of the size of the soiling cloth holder head used;
- g) the number of abrasion rub cycles and the loading on the sample holder;
- h) the numerical ratings obtained for the change in colour of the test specimen(s), stating whether visual or instrumental assessment was used;
- i) if a cleaning after-treatment is made, the kind of cleaning and the numerical ratings obtained for the change in colour of the test specimen(s);
- j) any changes noted in appearance and/or hue of the test specimen from the visual assessment;
- k) the standard atmosphere used for conditioning and testing according to ISO 2419;
- l) details of any deviations from this standard test method.