
**Requirements for sleeping bags —
Part 1:
Thermal, mass and dimensional
requirements for sleeping bags
designed for limit temperatures of
-20°C and higher**

Exigences pour les sacs de couchage —

Partie 1: Exigences thermiques, de masse et dimensionnelles pour les sacs de couchage conçus pour les températures limites de -20 °C et plus

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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 Technical Committee ISO/TC 83, *Sports and other recreational facilities and equipment*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 136, *Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 23537-1:2016), which has been technically revised. It also incorporates the Amendment ISO 23537-1:2016/Amd.1:2018.

The main changes are as follows:

- update of [Clause 3](#);
- update of the scope to exclude extreme climate conditions;
- revision of requirements for lower temperature limits;
- revision of test methods;
- revision of [Clause 7](#);
- revision of the reference values of thermal resistance for calibration of thermal manikin.

A list of all parts in the ISO 23537 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

ISO 23537-2 specifies requirements for material performance.

This document considers important aspects to the thermal performance of the sleeping bag.

In this document, consideration was given to the need to continue to reduce inter laboratory variability of the thermal testing and a number of test parameters have been tightened as a consequence.

A rationale is given in [Annex E](#).

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Requirements for sleeping bags —

Part 1:

Thermal, mass and dimensional requirements for sleeping bags designed for limit temperatures of -20°C and higher

1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements, test methods and other provisions for the labelling of adult sized sleeping bags for use in sports and leisure time activities at a limit temperature ≥ -20 °C regarding thermal characteristics, dimensions and mass.

This document describes a method for the assessment of performance in steady-state conditions of a sleeping bag with regard to the protection against cold.

NOTE 1 Sleeping bags without homogeneous fillings designed to provide local extra insulation in certain parts pose issues with the calibration and/or test procedure. Ongoing work continues to provide suitable means of establishing temperature ratings.

This document does not apply to sleeping bags intended for specific purpose such as military use and extreme climate zone expedition. It does not apply to sleeping bags for children or babies.

NOTE 2 No prediction model exists for the determination of the limiting temperatures based on the thermal resistance of the sleeping bag for children and babies. Moreover, such a model for testing cannot be developed because the necessary controlled sleep trials with children or babies in climatic chambers are, out of ethical reasons, not possible.

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 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 1096, *Plywood — Classification*

ISO 3758, *Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols*

ISO 11092, *Textiles — Physiological effects — Measurement of thermal and water-vapour resistance under steady-state conditions (sweating guarded-hotplate test)*

ISO 15831:2004, *Clothing — Physiological effects — Measurement of thermal insulation by means of a thermal manikin*

EN 13088:2018, *Manufactured articles filled with feather and down — Method for the determination of a filled product's total mass and of the mass of the filling*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

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

3.1 comfort temperature

T_{comf}
lower limit of the comfort range, down to which a sleeping bag user with a relaxed posture, such as lying on their back, is globally in thermal equilibrium and at the threshold of feeling cold

Note 1 to entry: For more information, see [C.6.3](#).

3.2 limit temperature

T_{lim}
lower limit at which a sleeping bag user with a curled-up body posture is globally in thermal equilibrium and at the threshold of feeling cold

Note 1 to entry: For more information, see [C.6.2](#).

3.3 extreme temperature

T_{ext}
very low temperature where the risk of health damage by hypothermia is possible

Note 1 to entry: For more information, see [C.6.1](#).

Note 2 to entry: This is a point of danger that can lead to death.

3.4 maximum temperature

T_{max}
upper limit of comfort range, up to which a partially uncovered sleeping bag user does not perspire too much

Note 1 to entry: For more information, see [Annex F](#).

3.5 thermal manikin

dummy with human shape and heated body surface that allows the determination of thermal transfer through the sleeping bag under steady-state conditions

Note 1 to entry: I.e. constant heat flux and temperature gradient between body surface and ambient air.

3.6 thermal resistance

R_c
property of the sleeping bag that is related to the dry heat loss of the sleeping bag user, affected by the difference of temperature between the skin and the ambient air, as measured with a thermal manikin

Note 1 to entry: The dry heat loss of the sleeping bag user is a combination of conductive, convective and radiative heat transfer.

Note 2 to entry: This thermal resistance represents the insulative property of a sleeping bag, which includes the effects of the shell fabrics and filling materials, air volume in the cavity inside the sleeping bag, boundary air layer on the outer face of the sleeping bag, mattress underneath the sleeping bag and garments worn by the sleeping bag user. It is considered to be the total thermal insulation (see ISO 15831).

4 Requirements

4.1 Thermal properties for lower temperature limits

Depending on the thermal resistance posture 1 $R_c(1)$, the values for the extreme temperature (T_{ext}), limit temperature (T_{lim}) and comfort temperature (T_{comf}) as given in Table 1 shall be used. If the thermal resistances posture 1 $R_c(1)$ measured for the sleeping bag is in between the values in Table 1, a linear interpolation shall be performed on the basis of the nearest upper and lower values of the thermal resistances posture 1 $R_c(1)$.

Test in accordance with 5.1.6.

Table 1 — Lower temperature limits of the range of utility

Thermal resistance posture 1 $R_c(1)$ $m^2 \cdot K/W$	Extreme temperature T_{ext} $^{\circ}C$	Limit temperature T_{lim} $^{\circ}C$	Comfort temperature T_{comf} $^{\circ}C$
0,500	+5,0	+14,2	+17,2
0,540	+2,8	+12,7	+15,9
0,580	+0,6	+11,2	+14,6
0,620	-1,5	+9,7	+13,3
0,660	-3,7	+8,1	+12,0
0,700	-5,8	+6,6	+10,7
0,740	-7,9	+5,1	+9,4
0,780	-10,1	+3,6	+8,1
0,820	-12,2	+2,2	+6,9
0,860	-14,3	+0,7	+5,6
0,900	-16,3	-0,8	+4,3
0,940	-18,4	-2,3	+3,1
0,980	-20,5	-3,7	+1,8
1,020	-22,5	-5,2	+0,6
1,060	-24,5	-6,7	-0,7
1,100	-26,5	-8,1	-1,9
1,140	-28,5	-9,5	-3,1
1,180	-30,5	-11,0	-4,4
1,220	-32,5	-12,4	-5,6
1,260	-34,4	-13,8	-6,8
1,300	-36,4	-15,2	-8,0
1,340	-38,3	-16,7	-9,2
1,380	-40,2	-18,1	-10,4
1,420	-42,2	-19,5	-11,6

4.2 Water vapour permeability index

The material specific water-vapour permeability index (i_{mt}) of the sleeping bag shall be $\geq 0,45$.

NOTE The water-vapour permeability index is dimensionless and has values between 0 and 1. A value of 0 implies that the material is water-vapour impermeable, that is, it has infinite water-vapour resistance, and a material with a value of 1 has both the thermal resistance and water-vapour resistance of an air layer of the same thickness.

Test in accordance with [5.2](#).

4.3 Inside dimensions

4.3.1 Inside length

The inside length of the sleeping bag shall be given with a tolerance of ± 3 cm. Test in accordance with [5.3.1](#).

4.3.2 Maximum inside width

The maximum inside width of the sleeping bag shall be given with a tolerance of ± 2 cm. Test in accordance with [5.3.2](#).

4.3.3 Inside foot width

The inside foot width of the sleeping bag shall be given with a tolerance of ± 2 cm. Test in accordance with [5.3.3](#).

4.4 Total mass

The total mass of the sleeping bag shall be given with a tolerance of ± 5 %. Test in accordance with [5.4](#).

5 Test methods

5.1 Testing of the thermal properties

5.1.1 Principle

The thermal resistance of the sleeping bag is measured with a thermal manikin, meeting the requirements and test procedure of ISO 15831, that is inserted into the sleeping bag and placed in a controlled atmosphere.

A physiological model is then applied using this thermal resistance to determine ambient temperatures corresponding to a range of utility of the sleeping bag.

The manikin test in this document is suitable for mummy-shaped bags, which appropriately fit to the manikin without being tight. The temperature rating result can be applied to other sized mummy bags that use the same materials and insulation construction and are proportionally scaled up or down from the tested bag.

5.1.2 Thermal manikin

5.1.2.1 General

A thermal manikin in accordance with ISO 15831 with a body height of $(1,70 \pm 0,15)$ m shall be used. During the test, the manikin shall be dressed in the following garments:

- two-piece suit (upper part with long sleeves, trousers) with a material specific thermal resistance (R_{ct}) of $0,040 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$ to $0,060 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$ when tested in accordance with ISO 11092.
- knee-length socks with a material specific thermal resistance (R_{ct}) of $0,040 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$ to $0,060 \text{ m}^2 \cdot \text{K}/\text{W}$ when tested in accordance with ISO 11092.

The thermal manikin's skin temperature shall be in accordance with ISO 15831:2004, Clause 7.

5.1.2.2 Calibration of thermal manikin

In order to calibrate a specific thermal manikin and the related operating conditions, the measurement shall be performed on the reference set of sleeping bags¹⁾ in accordance with [Table A.1](#). For measurement accuracy, see [Annex B](#).

A linear or exponential correlation shall be found between the thermal resistance figures issued from the measurement and the reference values for the thermal resistances posture 1 $R_c(1)$ of the reference set of sleeping bags given in [Table A.1](#).

The deviation of the corrected values of the thermal resistances posture 1 $R_c(1)$ obtained by applying this linear or exponential correlation from the reference thermal resistance values of the reference set of sleeping bags shall fulfil the following requirements:

- a) mean deviation with the complete set of the reference sleeping bags is <5 % (variation coefficient);
- b) no individual deviation is >10 % (variation coefficient);
- c) the repeatability of the measurement on each sleeping bag shall be better than 4 % (variation coefficient).

5.1.3 Climatic room

The test shall be performed in a climatic room with an air speed, a heat flux and a relative humidity in accordance with ISO 15831:2004, Clause 7.

The ambient temperature shall be (10 ± 5) °C. During the test, the fluctuation of the ambient temperature shall be in accordance with ISO 15831:2004, 5.2.1.

NOTE Highly insulative sleeping bags might not allow the heat flux to be ≥ 20 W/m². In these cases, an ambient temperature of the lowest value within this range is seen as appropriate.

5.1.4 Artificial ground

The test shall be operated with the thermal manikin placed into the sleeping bag in accordance with [5.1.6](#), lying on a foam mattress with a material specific thermal resistance $R_{ct} = (0,85 \pm 0,06)$ m² K/W when tested in accordance with ISO 11092 and placed on an artificial ground. This ground shall consist of a wooden board in accordance with ISO 1096, large enough that no part of the manikin or the sleeping bag protrudes over the board, with a thickness of (20 ± 2) mm.

The artificial ground is held at least 100 mm above the floor by some kind of support, which allows air circulation underneath the artificial ground.

5.1.5 Test samples and pre-treatment

Before testing, the sleeping bag shall be dry tumbled in a dryer with a capacity of ≥ 250 l without any additional load for 15 min at a temperature of <30 °C. After this dry tumbling and immediately prior to the test, it shall be conditioned for ≥ 12 h in the ambient conditions of the test.

5.1.6 Thermal resistance for posture 1 $R_c(1)$

The thermal resistance posture 1 $R_c(1)$ is measured with the thermal manikin completely inserted into the sleeping bag and lying on its back. The bag's zippers, if any, are closed. The bag's hood, if present,

1) The reference sets of sleeping bags are available from:

- a) SWEREA IVF AB, Box 104, 431 22 Mölndal (Sweden);
- b) Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG, Schloss Hohenstein, 74357 Bönnigheim (Germany);
- c) AITEX, Plaza Emilio Sala 1, 03801 Alcoy (Alicante) (Spain).

This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of the products named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

covers the manikin's head, and the cords of the hood are tightened as much as possible without using any additional aids (e.g. clothes pins, etc.) that are not supplied with the sleeping bag.

For sleeping bags that have hood draw cords with which the hood aperture can be closed to <120 mm diameter or <375 mm perimeter, a cold-protective mask, i.e. extreme cold weather, U.S. G.I.²⁾, shall be used on the manikin's face. For sleeping bags with hoods, draw cords with which the hood aperture cannot be closed to <120 mm diameter or <375 mm perimeter, a cold-protective mask shall not be used on the manikin's face. For sleeping bags that do not have a hood or do not have hood draw cords, a cold-protective mask shall not be used.

NOTE Test rectangular bags can encounter excessive heat loss in bare head area when tested, which would result in overly conservative results.

The thermal resistance posture 1 $R_c(1)$ is determined using either the serial or the parallel calculation method according to ISO 15831. The same calculation method shall be used for the sleeping bags being tested as was used for the reference set of sleeping bags.

5.1.7 Test procedure

The test shall be performed in accordance with the requirements in [4.1](#).

For each specific thermal manikin, the position of the arms and legs in relation to the torso of the manikin, the wooden board and the artificial ground shall be defined as part of the calibration procedure and remain the same in all the tests performed in accordance with this document.

Calculate the value of the thermal resistance posture 1 $R_c(1)$ by applying the same calculation method and correlation gained from the calibration procedure as given in [5.1.2.2](#).

Three separate tests shall be completed; each commencing from the insertion of the manikin into the sleeping bag. The arithmetic mean value of the thermal resistance of the sleeping bag shall then be calculated.

If the tests cannot be completed using three separate sleeping bags, then use of a single bag is permissible, however, it shall undergo the pre-treatment in accordance with [5.1.5](#) in between individual tests, and the test report shall show a single bag was used.

5.1.8 Calculation of temperatures of the range of utility

The sleeping bag's extreme temperature (T_{ext}), limit temperature (T_{lim}) and comfort temperature (T_{comf}) shall be determined on the basis of the thermal resistance posture 1 $R_c(1)$, in accordance with the physiological model described in [Annex C](#).

The temperatures of the sleeping bag's range of utility may also be obtained with acceptable accuracy using [Table 1](#). If the thermal resistances posture 1 $R_c(1)$ measured for the sleeping bag are in between the values in [Table 1](#), a linear interpolation shall be performed on the basis of the nearest upper and lower values of the thermal resistances posture 1 $R_c(1)$. The temperature limits to be given in the graph for the ranges of utility (see [Figure 1](#)) are rounded to the nearest integral number.

5.2 Testing of the water vapour permeability index

Test in accordance with ISO 11092.

All different material combinations of the sleeping bag shall be tested.

2) Mask, extreme cold weather, U.S. G.I. is the trade name of product supplied by Coleman. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by ISO of the product named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.