
**Thermal performance of building
components — Dynamic thermal
characteristics — Calculation methods**

*Performance thermique des composants de bâtiment —
Caractéristiques thermiques dynamiques — Méthodes de calcul*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
3.1 Definitions valid for any component.....	2
3.2 Definitions valid only for one dimensional heat flow.....	3
3.3 Other.....	5
4 Symbols and subscripts	5
4.1 Symbols.....	5
4.2 Subscripts.....	6
4.3 Specific symbols.....	6
5 Description of the method	6
5.1 Output.....	6
5.2 General description.....	6
6 Calculation of dynamic thermal properties	6
6.1 Output data.....	6
6.2 Calculation time intervals.....	7
6.3 Input data.....	7
6.4 Period of the thermal variations.....	8
6.5 Heat capacity.....	8
7 Heat transfer matrix of a multi-layer component	8
7.1 General.....	8
7.2 Procedure.....	8
7.3 Heat transfer matrix of a homogeneous layer.....	9
7.4 Heat transfer matrix of plane air cavities.....	9
7.5 Heat transfer matrix of a building component.....	9
8 Dynamic thermal characteristics	10
8.1 Characteristics for any component.....	10
8.2 Characteristics for components consisting of plane and homogeneous layers.....	10
8.2.1 Thermal admittances and periodic thermal conductances.....	10
8.2.2 Modified admittance for internal partitions.....	10
8.2.3 Areal heat capacities.....	10
8.2.4 Periodic thermal transmittance and decrement factor.....	11
9 Report	11
9.1 Calculation report.....	11
9.2 Summary of results.....	12
Annex A (normative) Input and method selection data sheet — Template	13
Annex B (informative) Input and method selection data sheet — Default choices	15
Annex C (normative) Simplified calculation of the heat capacity	17
Bibliography	19

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 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.

ISO 13786 was prepared by ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Calculation methods*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 89, *Thermal performance of buildings and building components*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 13786:2007), which has been technically revised.

The changes in the third edition are mostly editorial. This document has been re-drafted according to CEN/TS 16629:2014.

This corrected version of ISO 13786 incorporates the following correction:

- In Formula (C.5) the symbol $\dot{E}^2$ has been corrected to ω^2 .

Introduction

This document is part of a series aimed at the international harmonization of the methodology for assessing the energy performance of buildings. Throughout, this series is referred to as a “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 for this document are architects, engineers and regulators.

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 [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](#). 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 (ISO/TR 52019-2) accompanying this document.

The subset of EPB standards prepared under the responsibility of ISO/TC 163/SC 2 cover *inter alia*:

- calculation procedures on the overall energy use and energy performance of buildings;
- calculation procedures on the internal temperature in buildings (e.g. in case of no space heating or cooling);
- indicators for partial EPB requirements related to thermal energy balance and fabric features;

- calculation methods covering the performance and thermal, hygrothermal, solar and visual characteristics of specific parts of the building and specific building elements and components, such as opaque envelope elements, ground floor, windows and facades.

ISO/TC 163/SC 2 cooperates with other technical committees for the details on appliances, technical building systems, indoor environment, etc.

This document provides the means (in part) to assess the contribution that building products and services make to energy conservation and to the overall energy performance of buildings.

This document provides calculation methods for the dynamic thermal characteristics of a building component. These characteristics describe the thermal behaviour of the component when it is subject to variable boundary conditions, i.e. variable heat flow rate or variable temperature on one or both of its boundaries. In this document, only sinusoidal boundary conditions are considered: boundaries are submitted to sinusoidal variations of temperature or heat flow rate.

The properties considered are thermal admittances and thermal dynamic transfer properties, relating cyclic heat flow rate to cyclic temperature variations. Thermal admittance relates heat flow rate to temperature variations on the same side of the component. Thermal dynamic transfer properties relate physical quantities on one side of the component to those on the other side. From the aforementioned properties, it is possible to define the heat capacity of a given component which quantifies the heat storage property of that component.

The dynamic thermal characteristics defined in this document can be used in product specifications of complete building components.

The dynamic thermal characteristics can also be used in the calculation of:

- the internal temperature in a room,
- the daily peak power and energy needs for heating or cooling, and
- the effects of intermittent heating or cooling, etc.

[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. See also [Tables A.1](#) and [B.1](#).

Table 1 — Position of this document (*in casu* M2–9) within the modular structure of the set of EPB standards

	Overarching		Building (as such)		Technical building systems									
Sub module	Descriptions		Descriptions		Descriptions	Heating	Cooling	Ventilation	Humidification	Dehumidification	Domestic hot water	Lighting	Building automation 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		Maximum 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		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									
8	Building zoning		Solar heat gains		Generation and control									
9	Calculated energy performance		Building dynamics (thermal mass)	ISO 13786	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.