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Functional pigments and extenders for special applications —

Part 2: Nanoscale titanium dioxide for sunscreen application

Pigments et matières de charges fonctionnels pour applications spéciales —

Partie 2: Dioxyde de titane nanométrique pour protections solaires

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 256, *Pigments, dyestuffs and extenders*.

ISO 18473 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Functional pigments and extenders for special applications*:

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— *Part 1: Nanoscale calcium carbonate for sealant application*

— *Part 2: Nanoscale titanium dioxide for sunscreen application*

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Introduction

The UV radiation of sunlight has great harm to the skin. Overmuch exposure in UV radiation will cause erythema and black spot, age the skin, and can even cause skin carcinoma. Sunscreens, which include UV blockers, are thus applied to skin to provide UV protection. Among them is titanium dioxide which has been used for decades as UV attenuator in sunscreens. Its attenuation is the combined effect of absorbing and scattering incident light. Compared with the pigmentary titanium dioxide, nanoscale titanium dioxide in the same dosage shows higher attenuation property in UV region, and thus provides superior UV protection. Furthermore, nanoscale titanium dioxide in sunscreen, when applied onto skin, maintains a high level of transparency because of its small size. Therefore, nanoscale titanium dioxide is rapidly, widely applied and becomes one of the most excellent inorganic ultraviolet resistant substances in sunscreen nowadays.

Although nanoscale titanium dioxide is commercially used in many sunscreen brands, its properties relevant to sunscreen application are not well defined which even causes misunderstanding among buyers and suppliers. In order to facilitate sound trading and technical transfer, the base for agreement on the characteristics of nanoscale titanium dioxide is to be established and shared by the stakeholders. The purpose of this part of ISO 18473 is to specify the requirements and corresponding test methods for sunscreen application of nanoscale titanium dioxide.

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