
**Sheet materials — Determination
of water vapour transmission rate
(WVTR) — Gravimetric (dish) method**

*Matériaux en feuilles — Détermination du coefficient de transmission
de la vapeur d'eau — Méthode (de la capsule) par gravimétrie*

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	2
5 Apparatus and material	2
6 Sampling	5
7 Conditioning	5
8 Preparation of test pieces	5
9 Preparation of dishes	6
9.1 General.....	6
9.2 Use of wax and a cover template [5.3 b)].....	6
9.3 Use of wax and a ring template [5.3 a)].....	6
10 Procedure	6
10.1 General method.....	6
10.2 Use of blank assemblies.....	7
10.3 Creased sheet.....	7
11 Expression of results	7
12 Precision	8
13 Test report	8
Annex A (normative) Method for determination of water vapour transmission rate of creased materials	9
Annex B (normative) Test conditions	13
Annex C (informative) Sealing waxes	14
Bibliography	15

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

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Test methods and quality specifications for paper and board*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 2528:1995), of which it constitutes a minor revision with the following changes:

- editorial updating;
- format updating.

Introduction

This document describes a method which can in theory be applied to any sheet material. In practice its main use is for flat, usually thin, materials that can be processed to form a water vapour-resistant barrier, as used in packaging, such as paper, board, plastics films or laminates of paper with films or metal foils, and for fabrics coated with rubber or plastics.

The water vapour pressure differential is the essential part of this test and in this instance it has not been possible to adopt the conditions recommended in ISO 554. In addition, the limits of temperature and humidity control are more exacting than those required for normal testing.

This test is intended to give reliable values of water vapour transmission rate (WVTR) by means of simple apparatus. The use of the results of any particular application should, however, be based upon experience.

Transmission rate is not a linear function of temperature nor, generally, of relative humidity difference. A determination carried out under certain conditions is not, therefore, necessarily comparable with one carried out under other conditions. The conditions of test should, therefore, be chosen to be as close as possible to the conditions of use.

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Sheet materials — Determination of water vapour transmission rate (WVTR) — Gravimetric (dish) method

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of the water vapour transmission rate (often erroneously called “permeability”) of sheet materials.

This method is not generally recommended for use if the transmission rate is expected to be less than 1 g/m² per day or for materials thicker than 3 mm. In such cases the method specified in ISO 9932 is preferred.

The method cannot be applied to film materials that are damaged by hot wax or that shrink to an appreciable extent under the test conditions used.

For some purposes it may be necessary to determine the transmission rate of creased material; a procedure for this is given in [Annex A](#).

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 186, *Paper and board — Sampling to determine average quality*

ISO 187, *Paper, board and pulps — Standard atmosphere for conditioning and testing and procedure for monitoring the atmosphere and conditioning of samples*

ISO 209, *Aluminium and aluminium alloys — Chemical composition*

ISO 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 23529, *Rubber — General procedures for preparing and conditioning test pieces for physical test methods*

ISO 2231, *Rubber- or plastics-coated fabrics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

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 <http://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

water vapour transmission rate WVTR

mass of water vapour transmitted through a unit area in a unit time under specified conditions of temperature and humidity

Note 1 to entry: Expressed in grams per square metre per day [g/(m² × d)].