
**Rubber, vulcanized or
thermoplastic — Determination of
low-temperature brittleness**

*Caoutchouc vulcanisé ou thermoplastique — Détermination de la
fragilité à basse température*

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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 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 45, *Rubber and rubber products*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Testing and analysis*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 812:2011), of which it constitutes a minor revision.

The changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- the normative references in [Clause 2](#) have been updated;
- the definition of “failure” has been added in [3.4](#);
- a note has been added in [4.2](#).

Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of low-temperature brittleness

WARNING 1 — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any national regulatory conditions.

WARNING 2 — Certain procedures specified in this document might involve the use or generation of substances, or the generation of waste, that could constitute a local environmental hazard. Reference should be made to appropriate documentation on safe handling and disposal after use.

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for determining the lowest temperature at which rubber materials do not exhibit brittle failure or the temperature at which half of the test pieces used in a test fail when impacted under specified conditions.

The temperatures thus determined do not necessarily relate to the lowest temperature at which the material can be used since the brittleness will be affected by the conditions of test and especially by the rate of impact. Data obtained by this method are, therefore, intended to be used to predict the behaviour of rubbers at low temperatures only in applications in which the conditions of deformation are similar to those specified in the test.

Three procedures are described:

- procedure A, in which the brittleness temperature is determined;
- procedure B, in which the brittleness temperature for 50 % failure is determined;
- procedure C, in which the test piece is impacted at a specified temperature.

Procedure C is used in the classification of rubber materials and for specification purposes.

NOTE A similar test for rubber-coated fabrics is described in ISO 4646.

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 18899:2013, *Rubber — Guide to the calibration of test equipment*

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

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:

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

3.1 brittleness temperature

lowest temperature at which none of a set of test pieces fractures due to low-temperature embrittlement when tested under the specified conditions

3.2 50 % brittleness temperature

temperature at which 50 % of a set of test pieces fractures due to low-temperature embrittlement when tested under the specified conditions

3.3 testing speed

relative linear velocity at impact between the striking edge of the test apparatus and a clamped test piece

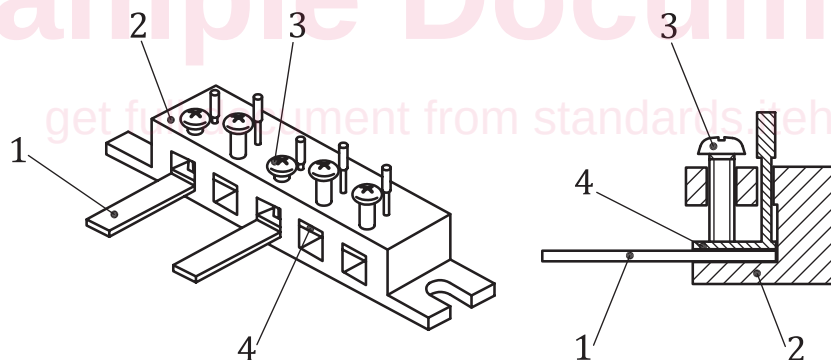
3.4 failure

any crack, fissure or hole visible to the naked eye, or complete separation into two or more pieces

4 Apparatus and materials

4.1 Test piece clamp and striker, meeting the requirements of 4.1.1 to 4.1.3.

4.1.1 The test piece clamp shall be rigid and designed to hold the test piece(s) as cantilever beam(s). Each individual test piece shall be held firmly and securely in the clamp without distortion. A suitable example of a clamp is shown in [Figure 1](#).



Key

- 1 test piece
- 2 body of clamp
- 3 holding screw
- 4 test piece holder

Figure 1 — Example of test piece clamp

4.1.2 The striking edge shall move relative to the test piece(s) along a path normal to the upper surface of the test piece(s) at a linear testing speed of $2,0 \text{ m/s} \pm 0,2 \text{ m/s}$ at impact. The speed shall be maintained within this range for at least 6 mm of travel following the impact.

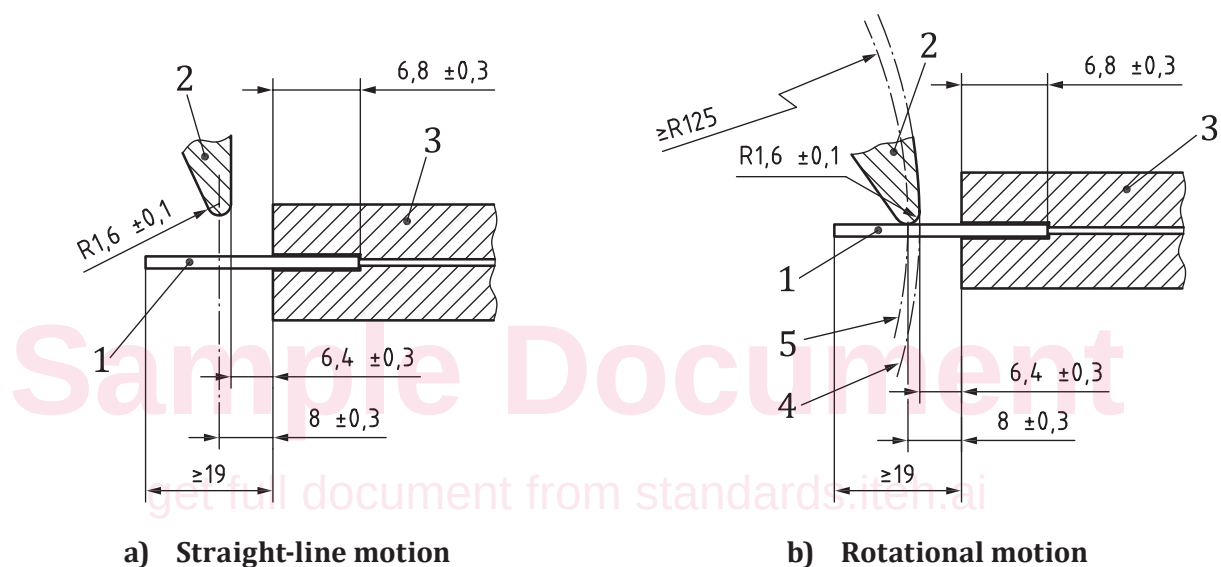
In order to obtain a speed within the specified limits during and after impact, care shall be taken to ensure that the striking energy is sufficient. It has been found that a striking energy of at least 3,0 J per test piece is necessary. It might, therefore, be necessary to limit the number of test pieces impacted at one time.

4.1.3 The principal dimensions of the apparatus [see [Figures 2 a\)](#) and [b\)](#)] shall be as follows:

- the striking edge shall have a radius of $1,6 \text{ mm} \pm 0,1 \text{ mm}$;
- the clearance between the striker and the test piece clamp at impact shall be $6,4 \text{ mm} \pm 0,3 \text{ mm}$;
- the separation between the point of impact of the striking edge and the test piece clamp shall be $8 \text{ mm} \pm 0,3 \text{ mm}$;
- the clamping length of the test piece clamp shall be $6,8 \text{ mm} \pm 0,3 \text{ mm}$.

NOTE Commercial apparatus is available meeting the requirements of this document in which the striking edge is rotated by a motor or travels in a straight line under the action of a solenoid, gravity or a spring. A method for the speed calibration of a solenoid-actuated low-temperature impact tester is given in [Annex A](#).

Dimensions in millimetres



Key

- 1 test piece
- 2 striker
- 3 test piece clamp
- 4 locus described by point on striker closest to test piece clamp
- 5 locus described by impact point on striker

Figure 2 — Test piece clamp and striker

4.2 Heat-transfer medium, liquid or gaseous, which remains fluid at the test temperature and which does not appreciably affect the material being tested, as prescribed in ISO 23529.

Gases can be employed as the heat-transfer medium provided the design of the apparatus is such that results obtained using them will duplicate those obtained with liquids.

The following fluids have been used satisfactorily:

- for temperatures down to $-60 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, silicone fluids are usually suitable owing to their chemical inertness towards rubbers, their non-flammability and their non-toxicity;

NOTE A kinematic viscosity of about $5 \text{ mm}^2/\text{s}$ at ambient temperature has been found suitable.

- for temperatures down to $-73 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, ethanol;