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Plastics — Evaluation of the action of microorganisms

Plastiques — Évaluation de l'action des micro-organismes

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Ageing, chemical and environmental resistance*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 846:1997), which has been technically revised. The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows.

— The size of the test specimens has been defined as (50 mm ± 1 mm) × (50 mm ± 1 mm). A fixed size allows the determination of any edge effects associated with the area 5 mm from the outer edge (see new Annex C). In this way, the evaluation of growth on the test specimens is harmonized.

— New Annexes B and C have been added and the old annexes have been renumbered.

— The former Annex C has been updated and renumbered as Annex D.

— Test A only:

  Stainless steel coupons acting as negative control specimens have been introduced to provide a reference for where fungal growth occurs in the Petri dish, even though no nutrients have been added to the test design.

  The test design does not use an agar-medium any more to provide the source of moisture to allow 95 % ± 5 % relative humidity to be achieved. Instead the test specimens are stored in closed containers that include a water reservoir to provide a relative humidity 95 % ± 5 % around the test specimens during incubation;

  A grid has been introduced for use during the evaluation of the area of growth observed on the surface of the test specimens. The use of the grid provides and objective mechanisms for assessing growth and is explained in the new Annex C.

— Test B has been deleted.

— Positive control specimens (test specimens that allow fungal growth) have been introduced to allow the determination of basic fungistatic effects of samples that contain biocides.