
Identification cards — Laundry testing of ID Cards

*Cartes d'identification — Essai en blanchisserie des cartes
d'identification*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

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 document 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).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information Technology*, Subcommittee SC 17, *Cards and personal identification*.

Introduction

Test methods developed in ISO/IEC 24789 are intended to reflect the factors affecting the life of a card in normal use. Accidental exposure such as laundering is not considered to be normal use. Nevertheless, many card specifiers and users are concerned that a test procedure should be drawn up and published as a recognised method. SC 17 agreed at meeting No 62 that this Technical Report was the most appropriate format for such a test. It can be used in conjunction with tests described in the base standard.

The risk of cards being laundered varies according to geographical region and national norms. In the US, for example, it is thought that most people carry their cards in a trouser pocket giving the possibility that cards are laundered with clothing. In Japan and northern Europe, cards are mainly carried in wallets with a lower risk of laundering damage.

There are a number of factors that can potentially affect cards during laundering:

- exposure to water plus detergent solution for a period of up to 2,5 hours;
- exposure to washing cycle temperatures of up to 90 °C for part of that time;
- exposure to dryer temperatures of up to 80 °C.

During the process, most cards will remain within the pocket of the garment so there is likely to be some minor physical stress due to tumbling or spinning.

In seeking to propose a test that may be considered representative of the range of conditions a card may encounter, some statistics were obtained on the current trends in laundering.

Globally, 38% of laundry loads are done with cold water (source: P&G). This proportion has not increased in spite of the introduction of new cold water detergents, although there is a trend towards the use of lower temperatures for environmental reasons.

In the USA, most users still use hot washes. Cold water detergent represents less than 15 % of US detergent sales.

Washing machines are commonly programmed to work at 30 °C, 40 °C, 60 °C, and 90 °C

The most common washing temperature used in the UK is 40 °C. 60 °C is used for heavily soiled items and 90 °C is used only rarely (source: Which magazine).