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**Geosynthetics — Tensile test for  
joints/seams by wide-width strip method**

*Géosynthétiques — Essai de traction des joints/coutures par la  
méthode de la bande large*

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 10321 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 221, *Geosynthetics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 10321:1992), which has been technically revised.

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# Geosynthetics — Tensile test for joints/seams by wide-width strip method

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies an index test method for determination of the tensile properties of joints and seams in geosynthetics, using a wide-width strip. The method is applicable to most geosynthetics. It is also applicable to geogrids, but the specimen dimensions may need to be altered. This test is not applicable to polymeric or bituminous geosynthetic barriers.

This method quantifies the tensile strength of a joint or seam between geosynthetics. It can provide data to indicate the joint or seam tensile strength which can be achieved.

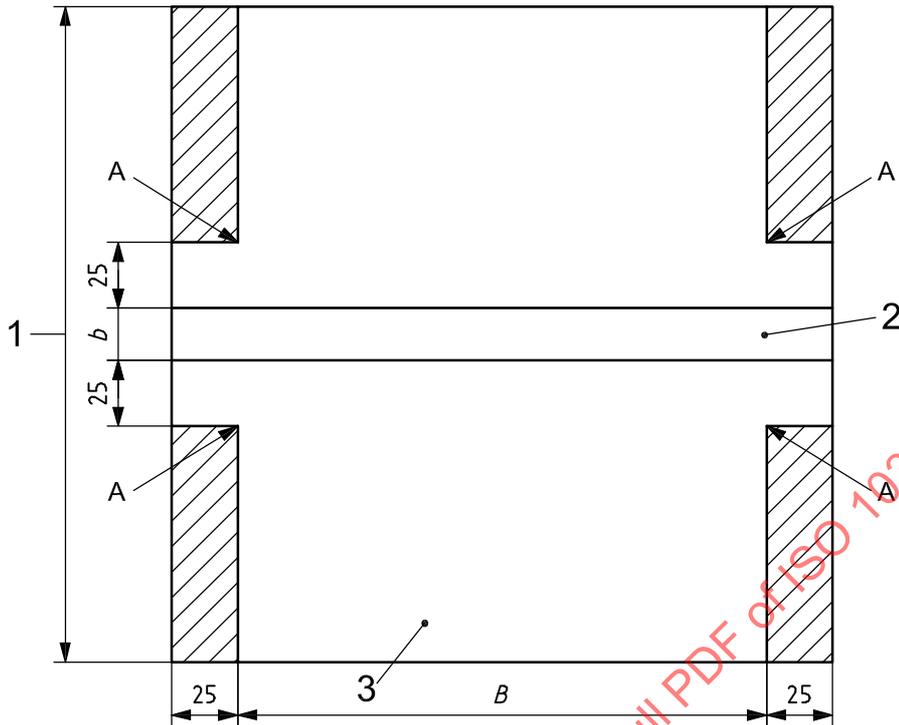
A joint or seam efficiency can be calculated by comparison of the joint/seam tensile strength with the tensile strength of the unjointed material, as determined by ISO 10319.

Procedures for measuring the tensile properties of both conditioned and wet specimens are included.

Some modification of techniques may be necessary for particular geosynthetics, e.g. strong geosynthetics, meshes or geosynthetics made from glass fibre, to prevent them from slipping in the jaws or being damaged as a result of being gripped in the jaws.

The basic test for joints or seams in all kinds of geosynthetics uses test specimens of 200 mm width, with the provision for the seam or joint to extend for 25 mm on each side, in order to provide joint or seam stability during the test (see Figure 1).

Dimensions in millimetres



**Key**

- 1 length, in millimetres
- 2 joint/seam
- 3 finished specimen
- A see 6.3.5 and 8.4 b)
- B specimen width, in millimetres
- b joint/seam width, in millimetres

**Figure 1 — Preparation of test specimen**

**2 Normative references**

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 554, *Standard atmospheres for conditioning and/or testing — Specifications*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

ISO 7500-1, *Metallic materials — Verification of static uniaxial testing machines — Part 1: Tension/compression testing machines — Verification and calibration of the force-measuring system*

ISO 9862, *Geosynthetics — Sampling and preparation of test specimens*

ISO 10318:2005, *Geosynthetics — Terms and definitions*

ISO 10319, *Geosynthetics — Wide-width tensile test*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 10318 and the following apply.

#### 3.1

##### **seam**

series of stitches joining two or more separate pieces of a material or materials of planar structure, e.g. geosynthetics or related products

#### 3.2

##### **joint**

junction at which two or more separate pieces of a geosynthetic are joined by a method other than stitching

#### 3.3

##### **joint/seam strength**

$T_{j/s \max}$

maximum tensile stress of the seam formed by joining two or more sheets

NOTE The joint or seam strength is expressed in kilonewtons per metre.

[ISO 10318:2005]

#### 3.4

##### **joint/seam efficiency**

$\xi_{j/s}$

ratio of the joint or seam strength to the tensile strength of the material measured in the same direction

NOTE The joint or seam efficiency is expressed in percent.

[ISO 10318:2005]

## 4 Principle

A geosynthetic specimen, 200 mm wide and containing a joint/seam, is gripped across its entire width in the clamps of a tensile testing machine, operated at a prescribed rate of extension, and subjected to a longitudinal force (perpendicular to the seam axis) until the joint/seam of the geosynthetic ruptures.

## 5 Apparatus and materials

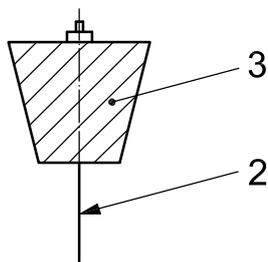
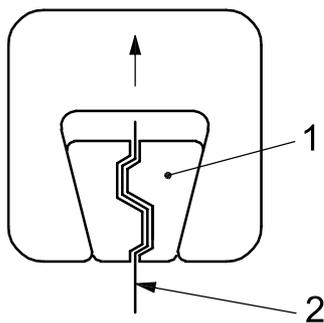
### 5.1 Tensile testing machine

Tensile testing machine, constant rate of extension type, complying with ISO 7500-1, Class 2 or higher, in which the rate of increase of the specimen length is uniform with time.

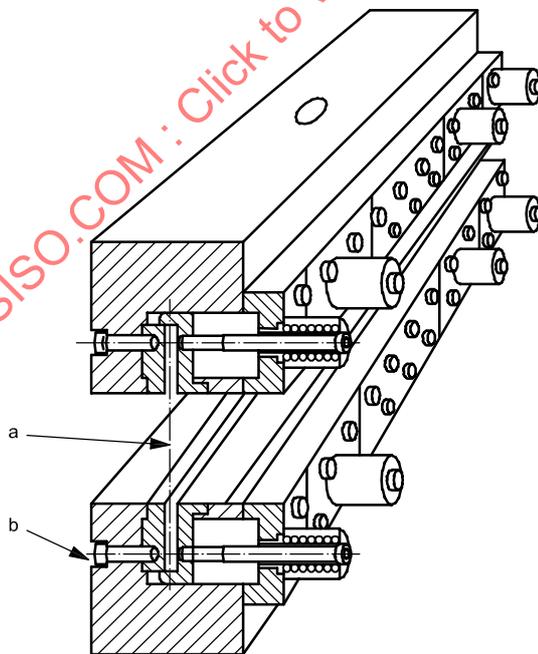
### 5.2 Jaws

Jaws which are sufficiently wide to hold the entire width of the specimen and with appropriate means to limit slippage or damage. Each jaw shall have faces measuring at least the width of the specimen, i.e. 200 mm.

NOTE It is stressed that it is essential to choose jaw faces that limit any slippage of the geosynthetic that may occur, especially for stronger geosynthetics. Examples of types of jaw face, which have been found satisfactory, are given in Figure 2.

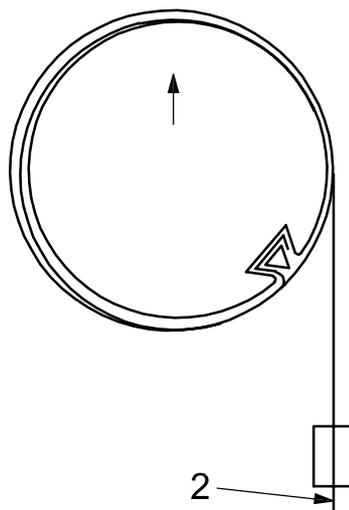


a) Wedge jaws



b) Compressive block jaws

Figure 2 — Examples of jaw faces for testing geosynthetics



c) Capstan

**Key**

- 1 serrated wedge
- 2 geosynthetic
- 3 epoxy or soft-metal wedge
- <sup>a</sup> Specimen maximum width: 0,5 m.
- <sup>b</sup> Compressive force adjustable up to 400 kN.

**Figure 2** (continued)**5.3 Water**

For wet specimens only, water complying with Grade 3 of ISO 3696.

**5.4 Non-ionic wetting agent**

For wet specimens only.

**6 Test specimens****6.1 Number of test specimens**

Cut at least five test specimens, each of which includes the seam or joint.

**6.2 Selection of test specimens**

Select specimens in accordance with ISO 9862.

**6.3 Dimensions of test specimens****6.3.1 General**

Prepare test specimens from the jointed or seamed specimen, each of sufficient length to ensure an initial jaw separation of 100 mm plus the joint or seam width,  $b$  (see Figure 1) and with the seam or joint located along the centre-line of the specimen, perpendicular to the direction of the applied load.

### 6.3.2 Nonwoven geotextiles

Cut each specimen, as shown in Figure 1, to achieve a final specimen width of 200 mm. When removing the shaded area from a specimen, as shown in Figure 1, the angles between the 25 mm extensions, which are parallel to the seam or joint, and that section of the specimen having a finished width of 200 mm shall be 90°.

### 6.3.3 Woven geotextiles

For woven geotextiles (see ISO 10319), make 25 mm long cuts at a distance of (25 mm plus  $b/2$ ) from the vertical centre-line of the specimen, to facilitate the removal of the edge yarns in attaining the nominal width of 200 mm.

### 6.3.4 Geogrids

For geogrids, prepare jointed specimens at least 200 mm wide and sufficiently long to ensure a clamp separation of at least 100 mm plus the seam/joint width, measured to  $\pm 3$  mm. The jointed test specimen shall contain the same number of tensile elements as the wide-width tensile test specimens and at least one row of nodes or cross-members on either side of the joint, excluding those by which the test specimen is held in the jaws or from which the joint is to be made. Cut all ribs or cross-members at least 10 mm from any node (see Figure 3).

The cross-members, from which the joint is to be made, shall be extended by at least one pitch beyond the tensile elements to be tested, on both sides of the specimen, in order to facilitate the formation of the joint.

### 6.3.5 Knitted geotextiles

For knitted geotextiles, geocomposites or others, in which preparing the specimen by cutting with a knife or scissors may affect the geotextile structure, thermal cutting can be used, taking care to avoid damaging the specimen during the cutting operation, particularly at the points labelled "A" in Figure 1.

### 6.3.6 Wet testing

If wet testing is also required, cut five additional specimens.

## 6.4 Index characterization

For index characterization of the seam/joint, the two elements seamed/jointed together shall be oriented in the same direction (warp or weft, machine or cross-machine direction) and aligned perpendicular to the seam/joint and parallel to the applied load axis.

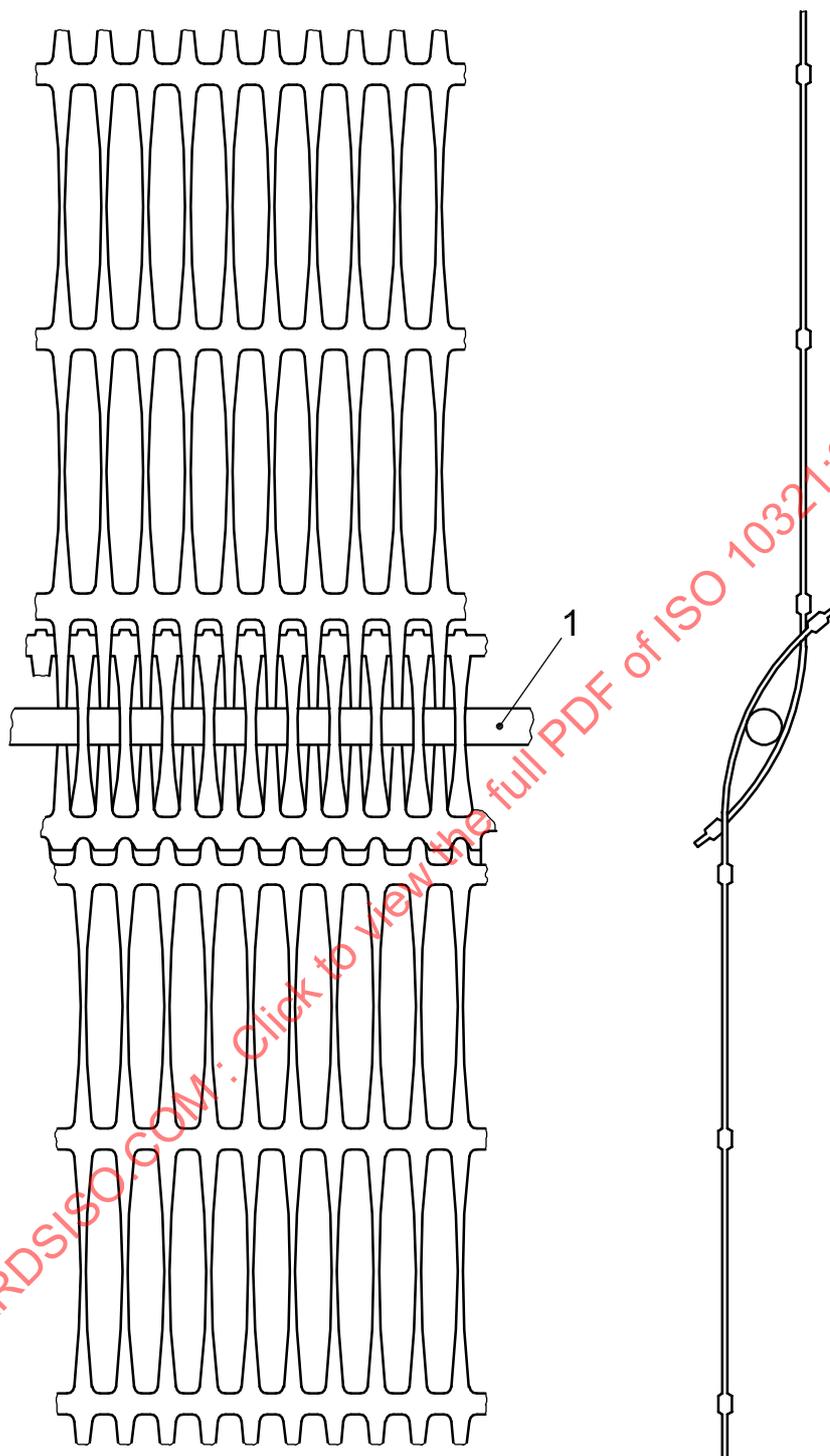
## 7 Conditioning

### 7.1 Conditioning and test atmosphere

The test specimens shall be conditioned and tested in the standard atmosphere for testing as defined in ISO 554 (20 °C  $\pm$  2 °C at 65 % RH  $\pm$  5 % RH) (RH is the relative humidity).

The specimens can be considered to have been conditioned when the change in mass in successive weightings, made at intervals of not less than 2 h, does not exceed 0,25 % of the mass of the test specimen.

Conditioning and/or testing in standard atmosphere may only be omitted when it can be shown that results obtained for the same specific type of product (both structure and polymer type) are not affected by changes in temperature and humidity exceeding the limits. This information shall be included in the test report.



**Key**

- 1 bodkin

**Figure 3 — Example of geogrid seam/joint specimen**

**7.2 Conditioning for testing in the wet condition**

Specimens to be tested in the wet condition shall be immersed in water (5.3) maintained at a temperature of  $(20 \pm 2)$  °C. The time of immersion shall be sufficient to wet the test specimens thoroughly, as indicated by no significant change in maximum load or strain following a longer period of immersion, and at least 24 h. To obtain thorough wetting, it may be necessary to add no more than 0,05 % of a non-ionic neutral wetting agent (5.4) to the water.

**8 Procedure**

**8.1 Setting up of machine**

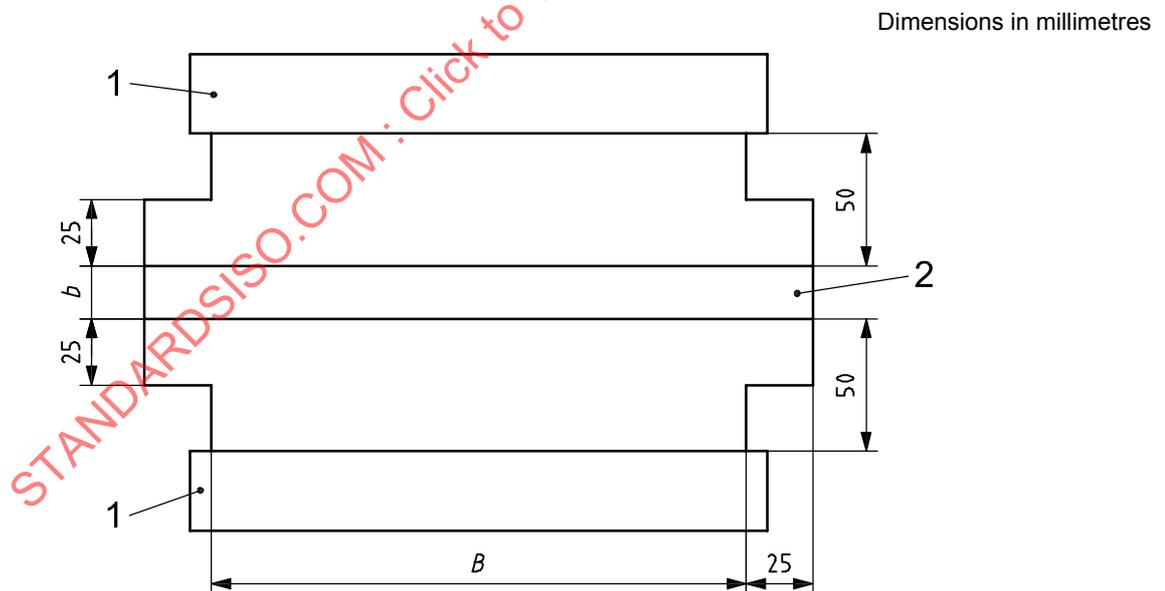
Adjust the distance between the jaws at the start of the test, to give a length of 100 mm plus the seam or joint width, measured to  $\pm 3$  mm, except for geogrids and geosynthetics when using capstan grips.

Select the force range of the testing machine such that the break can be measured to an accuracy of 0,01 kN. Set the machine at a constant cross-head speed so as to induce a strain rate of  $(20 \pm 5)$  %/min in the distance between the jaws. For wet test specimens, perform the test within 3 min of removal from the water.

If joint/seam efficiency is to be measured, the cross-head speed used shall be the same as that used for the tensile tests (specified in ISO 10319).

**8.2 Insertion of test specimen in jaws**

Mount the test specimen centrally in the jaws, taking care that the specimen length is parallel to the direction of application of the force. Where appropriate, after mounting, draw a line on the specimen parallel and adjacent to each jaw face, in order to observe any jaw slippage during testing (see Figure 4).



**Key**

- 1 clamp
- 2 joint/seam
- $B$  specimen width = 200 mm
- $b$  joint/seam width

**Figure 4 — Example of seam/joint specimen placed in compressive clamps**