
**Paints and varnishes — Determination of
resistance to cyclic corrosion conditions —**

Part 1:

Wet (salt fog)/dry/humidity

*Peintures et vernis — Détermination de la résistance aux conditions de
corrosion cyclique —*

Partie 1: Brouillard salin/sécheresse/humidité



Contents

Page

1	Scope.....	1
2	Normative references	1
3	Principle.....	2
4	Required supplementary information.....	2
5	Salt fog test solution	2
6	Apparatus	2
7	Sampling.....	4
8	Test panels	4
9	Method of exposure of test panels.....	5
10	Operating conditions.....	5
11	Procedure	5
12	Examination of test panels.....	6
13	Precision	6
14	Test report	6
	Annex A (normative) Required supplementary information.....	7
	Annex B (informative) Factors to be taken into account in the design and construction of salt spray cabinets.....	8
	Annex C (normative) Cycle A	9
	Annex D (normative) Cycle B	10
	Annex E (normative) Cycle C	11

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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.

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.

International Standard ISO 11997-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 35, *Paints and varnishes*, Subcommittee 9, *General test methods for paints and varnishes*.

ISO 11997 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Paints and varnishes – Determination of resistance to cyclic corrosion conditions*:

- *Part 1: Wet (salt fog)/dry/humidity*
- *Part 2: Wet (salt fog)/dry/humidity/light (UV)*

Annex A and annexes C to E form an integral part of this part of ISO 11997. Annex B is for information only.

Introduction

Coatings of paints, varnishes and similar materials are exposed to one of three cycles of wet and dry conditions using specified salt solutions in a cabinet in order to simulate, in the laboratory, processes occurring in aggressive outdoor conditions, such as marine environments. Generally, correlation between such outdoor weathering and laboratory testing cannot be expected because of the large number of factors influencing the breakdown process. Correlation can only be expected if the effect on the coating of important parameters (e.g. the nature of the pollutant, the spectral distribution of the incident irradiance in the relevant photochemical region, the temperature of the specimen, the type and cycle of wetting and relative humidity) is known. In contrast to outdoor weathering, laboratory testing in a cabinet is performed with a reduced number of variables which can be controlled, and therefore the effects are more reproducible. The method described may also give a means of checking that the quality of a paint or paint system is being maintained.

The method has been found to be useful in comparing the cyclic salt spray resistance of different coatings. It is most useful in providing relevant ratings for a series of coated panels exhibiting significant differences in cyclic salt spray resistance.

The test cycles included in this part of ISO 11997 have been used successfully, with documented evidence, in the industry for the assessment of performance. The cycles can be summarized as follows:

Cycle A (see annex C): This is based on the CCT-4 cycle and has been shown to give good correlation with natural processes for thermosetting paints.

Cycle B (see annex D): This is based on the VDA 621-415 cycle and is widely used in Europe. It has also been shown to give good correlation with natural weathering for thermosetting paints in vehicle corrosion.

Cycle C (see annex E): This cycle has been developed recently in the UK for use with water-soluble and latex paint systems, and has been shown to give good correlation with natural weathering.

It is intended that other cycles will be added at later revisions of this part of ISO 11997, as they are developed for evaluating other paint types.

ISO 11997-2¹ describes a method for determining the cyclic corrosion resistance of paints which includes UV exposure as part of the cycle. It has been found to give good correlation with natural weathering for industrial maintenance coatings.

¹ To be published.

Paints and varnishes — Determination of resistance to cyclic corrosion conditions —

Part 1: Wet (salt fog)/dry/humidity

1 Scope

This part of ISO 11997 is one of a series of standards dealing with the sampling and testing of paints, varnishes and related products.

It specifies a method of determining the resistance of coatings to one of three defined cycles of wet (salt fog)/dry/humidity conditions using specified solutions.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 11997. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 11997 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1512:1991, *Paints and varnishes – Sampling of products in liquid or paste form.*

ISO 1513:1992, *Paints and varnishes – Examination and preparation of samples for testing.*

ISO 1514:1993, *Paints and varnishes – Standard panels for testing.*

ISO 2808:1997, *Paints and varnishes – Determination of film thickness.*

ISO 3270:1984, *Paints and varnishes and their raw materials – Temperatures and humidities for conditioning and testing.*

ISO 3696:1987, *Water for analytical laboratory use – Specification and test methods.*

ISO 4628-1:1982, *Paints and varnishes – Evaluation of degradation of paint coatings – Designation of intensity, quantity and size of common types of defect – Part 1: General principles and rating schemes.*

ISO 4628-2:1982, *Paints and varnishes – Evaluation of degradation of paint coatings – Designation of intensity, quantity and size of common types of defect – Part 2: Designation of degree of blistering.*

ISO 4628-3:1982, *Paints and varnishes – Evaluation of degradation of paint coatings – Designation of intensity, quantity and size of common types of defect – Part 3: Designation of degree of rusting.*

ISO 4628-4:1982, *Paints and varnishes – Evaluation of degradation of paint coatings – Designation of intensity, quantity and size of common types of defect – Part 4: Designation of degree of cracking.*

ISO 4628-5:1982, *Paints and varnishes – Evaluation of degradation of paint coatings – Designation of intensity, quantity and size of common types of defect – Part 5: Designation of degree of flaking.*

3 Principle

A coated test panel is exposed to a cyclic wet (salt fog), drying and humidity test schedule and the effects of exposure are evaluated by criteria agreed in advance between the interested parties, these criteria usually being of a subjective nature.

4 Required supplementary information

For any particular application, the test method specified in this part of ISO 11997 needs to be completed by supplementary information. The items of supplementary information are given in annex A.

5 Salt fog test solution

5.1 Prepare the salt fog test solution by dissolving the salt or salts (as given in annexes C, D and E) in water of at least grade 2 purity as defined in ISO 3696, to produce the required concentration.

5.2 The salts shall be white and comply with the purity requirements given in table 1.

Table 1 — Purity of salts

Impurity	Maximum mass fraction of impurity (%)	Calculation method
Total	0,5	Calculated as a percentage of the dry salt
Iodide	0,1	Calculated as a percentage of the dry salt
Copper	0,001	Determined by spectrophotometry or another method of similar accuracy
Nickel	0,001	Determined by spectrophotometry or another method of similar accuracy

5.3 If the pH of the solution is outside the required range (see annexes C, D and E), the presence of undesirable impurities in the salt or the water or both shall be investigated. The pH determination shall be based on electrometric measurement at 25 °C, but a narrow-range indicator paper which can be read in increments of 0,3 pH units or less and which has been calibrated against electrometric measurements may be used in routine checks. Any necessary corrections shall be made by adding hydrochloric acid or sodium hydrogen carbonate (both of purity complying with table 1), of appropriate concentrations.

NOTE – Attention is drawn to the possible changes in pH resulting from loss of carbon dioxide from the solution when it is sprayed. Such changes may be avoided by reducing the carbon dioxide content of the solution by, for example, heating it to a temperature above 35 °C before it is placed in the cabinet or making the solution from freshly boiled water.

5.4 Filter the solution before placing it in the reservoir of the cabinet, in order to remove any solid matter which might block the apertures of the spraying device.

6 Apparatus

Ordinary laboratory apparatus and glassware, together with the following:

6.1 Spray cabinet, made of, or lined with, material resistant to corrosion by the sprayed solution and having a roof which prevents condensed moisture dripping onto the test specimens. The cabinet shall have a capacity of not less than 0,4 m³ in order to ensure even distribution of the spray.

The size and shape of the cabinet shall be such that the quantity of solution collected in the collecting devices (6.5) is within the limits stated in annexes C, D and E.

NOTE – Cabinets with a volume greater than 2 m³ will be difficult to operate unless careful consideration is given to their design and construction.

Factors which should preferably be taken into consideration are given in annex B.

If the cabinet has been used for a spray test, or for any other purpose, using a solution differing from that specified for the current test cycle, it shall be thoroughly cleaned before use.

6.2 Hot-air blowers, capable of maintaining the cabinet and its contents at the specified temperatures and achieving the required heating rates (see annexes C, D and E). The temperature shall be controlled by a thermostat element placed within the cabinet at least 100 mm from the walls of the cabinet.

6.3 Means for spraying the salt solution, comprising a supply of clean compressed air at a controlled pressure, a reservoir to contain the solution to be sprayed, and one or more atomizers made of material resistant to the solution. The compressed-air supply to each atomizer shall be passed through a filter to remove all traces of oil or solid matter, shall be at a suitable pressure depending upon the type of atomizer nozzle and shall be adjusted so that the rate of collection of spray in the cabinet and the concentration of the collected spray are kept within the specified limits (see annexes C, D and E).

The reservoir containing the solution to be sprayed shall be a tank made of material resistant to the solution and shall be provided with means of maintaining a constant flow of solution to the atomizers.

The atomizers shall be made of inert material, for example glass or plastic.

NOTE – Baffles may be used to prevent direct impingement of spray on the test specimens, and the use of adjustable baffles is helpful in obtaining uniform distribution of spray throughout the cabinet.

6.4 Drying-air supply, which shall be passed through a filter to remove all traces of oil or solid matter and shall have a flow rate sufficient to ensure that no drops of moisture are visible on the panels 45 minutes after the start of the dry phase. The panels shall not be dried by heaters within the cabinet walls.

NOTE – It is common practice to vent the cabinet to the atmosphere outside the laboratory.

6.5 Collecting devices, at least two, of chemically inert material (see note). The collecting devices shall be placed in the zone of the cabinet where the test specimens are placed, one close to the spray atomizer(s) and one remote from the spray atomizer(s). They shall be placed so that only spray and not liquid falling from test panels or from parts of the cabinet is collected. If two or more atomizers are used, the number of collecting devices shall be at least twice the number of atomizers.

NOTE – Glass funnels with the stems inserted into graduated cylinders have been found to be suitable collecting devices. Funnels with a diameter of 100 mm have a collecting area of approximately 80 cm².

6.6 Test panel racks, made of inert non-metallic material such as glass, plastic or suitably coated wood. Exceptionally, test panels may be suspended. In this case, the material used shall be synthetic fibre, cotton thread or other inert insulating material; on no account shall metallic material be used. All racks shall be placed at the same level in the cabinet so that the solution cannot drip from panels or racks at one level on to other panels placed below.

6.7 Control equipment, for providing wet (salt fog)/dry/humidity cycles for the times and temperatures specified in annexes C, D and E.

7 Sampling

Take a representative sample of the product to be tested (or of each product in the case of a multi-coat system), as described in ISO 1512.

Examine and prepare each sample for testing, as described in ISO 1513.

8 Test panels

8.1 Material and dimensions

Unless otherwise specified or agreed, the test panels shall be of burnished steel complying with ISO 1514, and of minimum dimensions 100 mm × 70 mm × 0,3 mm.

8.2 Preparation and coating of panels

Unless otherwise specified, prepare each test panel in accordance with ISO 1514 and then coat it by the specified method with the product or system under test.

Unless otherwise specified, the back and edges of the panel shall be coated with the product or system under test.

If the coating on the back and edges of the panel differs from that of the product under test, it shall have a corrosion resistance greater than that of the product under test.

8.3 Drying and conditioning

Dry (or stove) and age (if applicable) each coated test panel for the specified time under the specified conditions, and then, unless otherwise specified, condition them at a temperature and relative humidity as defined in ISO 3270 for at least 16 h, with free circulation of air and without exposing them to direct sunlight. The test procedure shall then be carried out as soon as possible.

8.4 Thickness of coating

Determine the thickness, in micrometres, of the dried coating by one of the non-destructive procedures described in ISO 2808.

8.5 Preparation of scribe

Unless otherwise specified, make a straight scribe through the coating to the substrate as follows:

To make the scribe, use a single-blade cutting tool. The scribe shall have an upwards-broadening cross-section which shows a width of 0,5 mm to 1,0 mm of the metallic substrate. Remove any loose debris from the vicinity of the scribe.

Cutting the scribe with a knife is not allowed.

For aluminium panels, make two scribes which are perpendicular to, but do not intersect, each other. One scribe shall be parallel to the rolling direction and the other at right angles to it.

All scribes shall be at least 20 mm from each other and from any edge of the test panel, unless agreed otherwise.

Two parallel scribes may also be applied. Unless agreed otherwise, locate the scribes parallel to the longer edge of the test panel.

Care needs to be taken in the production of the scribe to ensure uniformity of results.

9 Method of exposure of test panels

9.1 Place the panels in the cabinet in such a way that they are not in the path of spray from the atomizer.

9.2 Place the panels facing upwards at an angle of $(20 \pm 5)^\circ$ to the vertical.

NOTE – The angle at which each panel is exposed in the cabinet is very important.

It is sometimes necessary to expose painted components of different shapes. When such tests are conducted, it is of particular importance to expose the shaped components at the angle at which they are normally used. While satisfying this restriction, the component shall also be placed so as to minimize the disruption of flow. Furthermore, other test panels and components cannot be tested at the same time if the shape of the painted component interferes with the general direction of flow.

The degree of film breakdown may vary with different test specimen orientations, and due consideration shall be given to this when interpreting the results.

9.3 Arrange the panels so that they do not come into contact with one another or with the cabinet and so that the surfaces to be tested are exposed to the spray only where it is settling freely.

NOTE – It is recommended that the positions of the test panels be rotated on a daily basis to ensure positional effects within the cabinet do not interfere with the degradation process.

10 Operating conditions

10.1 Set the cabinet to run on the required spray cycle only and determine the salt fog deposition rate. The average rate of collection of solution in each collecting device (6.5) measured over a minimum period of 24 h shall be as defined in the appropriate annex (C, D or E) for a horizontal collecting area of 80 cm². This gives a more accurate assessment of the deposition rate, as the water will evaporate away from the collection devices during the drying cycles.

The solution collected shall have the concentration given in the appropriate annex (C, D or E).

10.2 Operate the cabinet to the required cycle (see annex C, D or E) unless otherwise specified, repeating the cycle for the required time.

10.3 Do not re-use test solution which has been already been sprayed.

11 Procedure

Carry out the determination in duplicate, unless otherwise agreed.

11.1 Set up the cabinet as described in clause 10 and allow equilibrium to be established.

11.2 Arrange the test panels in the cabinet (6.1) as described in clause 9.

NOTE – It is recommended that a control specimen of a paint with known durability be included with each series of test panels and that duplicates be exposed in different parts of the chamber.

11.3 Close the cabinet and start the flow of the salt solution through the atomizers. Run the cycle continuously throughout the prescribed test period, except for a short daily interruption (see clause 12) to inspect, re-arrange or remove test panels, to check the atomizers, to check and replenish the solution in the reservoir and to make any necessary recordings.

12 Examination of test panels

12.1 Make a periodic examination of the panels as quickly as possible, taking care not to damage the surfaces under test. Do not turn off the cabinet for more than 30 min in any 24 h period. Examine the panels during a dry phase. If this is not possible for any reason, turn off the cabinet but do not allow the panels to dry, and restart the cabinet as soon as possible.

12.2 At the end of the specified test period, remove the panels from the cabinet and rinse with clean water to remove residues of salt solution from the surface. Immediately examine the test surfaces for signs of deterioration in accordance with ISO 4628, parts 1 to 5 [see annex A, clause A.2, item g)].

12.3 If required, keep the panels in a standard atmosphere as defined in ISO 3270 for the specified period and examine the test surfaces for deterioration.

12.4 If it is required to examine the substrate for signs of attack, remove the coating by means of a non-corrosive paint remover unless otherwise specified [see annex A, clause A.2, item g)].

13 Precision

The concept of precision is not applicable to this part of ISO 11997 due to the subjective nature of the assessment (see clause 3). Users of this part of ISO 11997 should be aware that, because of the subjective nature of the assessment of the deterioration of the coating, precision will depend upon a number of factors. These include the evaluation method (i.e. ISO 4628, parts 1 to 5), the preparation of the test panels, the thickness of the coating, the drying and conditioning of the test panels and the preparation of the scribe(s).

14 Test report

The test report shall contain at least the following information:

- a) all details necessary to identify the product tested;
- b) a reference to this part of ISO 11997 (ISO 11997-1);
- c) the cycle used;
- d) the items of supplementary information referred to in annex A;
- e) a reference to the international or national standard, product specification or other document supplying the information referred to in d) above;
- f) the duration of the test;
- g) the scribe instrument used;
- h) the length, cross-sectional dimensions and location of each scribe mark;
- i) whether the position of the panels was changed (see note to 9.3);
- j) the results of the test, in terms of the stated requirements;
- k) any deviation from the test procedure specified;
- l) the date of the test.

Annex A (normative)

Required supplementary information

A.1 The items of supplementary information listed in this annex shall be supplied as appropriate to enable the method to be carried out.

A.2 The information required should preferably be agreed between the interested parties and may be derived, in part or totally, from an international or national standard or other document related to the product under test.

- a) Material, dimensions and surface preparation of the substrate (see 8.1 and 8.2).
- b) Method of application of the test coating to the substrate (see 8.2).
- c) Duration and conditions of drying (or stoving) and ageing (if applicable) of the coated test panels before testing (see 8.3).
- d) Thickness, in micrometres, of the dry coating and method of measurement in accordance with ISO 2808, and whether it is a single coating or a multi-coat system (see 8.4).
- e) Whether a scribe is to be made before exposure and, if so, the type of scribing tool, the depth and width of each scribe, their position and any other required information (see 8.5).
- f) Duration of the test (see 10.2).
- g) How inspection of the test coating is to be made and what characteristics are to be considered in evaluating its resistance to salt spray (see clause 12).
- h) Cycle to be used.

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Annex B (informative)

Factors to be taken into account in the design and construction of salt spray cabinets (see 6.1)

B.1 The number and the positioning of the atomizers and baffles required to produce an even spray distribution within the limits specified in annexes C, D and E.

B.2 The number of collecting devices required to monitor the spray as required in 6.5.

B.3 The heating, insulation and means of temperature control required to produce a uniform temperature within the cabinet at all positions where test specimens are exposed.

B.4 The design of the ceiling (for example a false ceiling) needed to prevent drops of solution falling onto the test panels as required in 6.1.

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