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**Plastics/rubber — Polymer  
dispersions and rubber latices  
(natural and synthetic) — Definitions  
and review of test methods**

*Plastiques/caoutchouc — Dispersions de polymères et latex de  
caoutchouc (naturel et synthétique) — Définitions et revue des  
méthodes d'essai*

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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](http://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](http://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 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/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Thermoplastic materials* in collaboration with ISO/TC 45, *Rubber and rubber products*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 12000:2000), which has been technically revised to update the references to the test methods and change dated references to undated references.

# Plastics/rubber — Polymer dispersions and rubber latices (natural and synthetic) — Definitions and review of test methods

## 1 Scope

This International Standard gives definitions relative to polymer dispersions and latices and identifies the test methods applicable for determining the properties of polymer dispersions, comprising products of synthetic or natural origin including synthetic and natural rubber latices. Some of the test methods apply only to polymer dispersions or latices of specific chemical composition or to those to be used for specific applications.

**NOTE** When they are not the subject of an existing International Standard, the test methods to be used for investigation of an individual polymer dispersion or latex are intended to be the subject of an agreement between the interested parties.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 35, *Natural rubber latex concentrate — Determination of mechanical stability*

ISO 123, *Rubber latex — Sampling*

ISO 124, *Latex, rubber — Determination of total solids content*

ISO 125, *Natural rubber latex concentrate — Determination of alkalinity*

ISO 126, *Natural rubber latex concentrate — Determination of dry rubber content*

ISO 127, *Rubber, natural latex concentrate — Determination of KOH number*

ISO 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 472, *Plastics — Vocabulary*

ISO 506, *Rubber latex, natural, concentrate — Determination of volatile fatty acid number*

ISO 705, *Rubber latex — Determination of density between 5 °C and 40 °C*

ISO 706, *Rubber latex — Determination of coagulum content (sieve residue)*

ISO 976, *Rubber and plastics — Polymer dispersions and rubber latices — Determination of pH*

ISO 1147, *Plastics/rubber — Polymer dispersions and synthetic rubber latices — Freeze-thaw cycle stability test*

ISO 1409, *Plastics/rubber — Polymer dispersions and rubber latices (natural and synthetic) — Determination of surface tension by the ring method*

ISO 1652, *Rubber latex — Determination of apparent viscosity by the Brookfield test method*

ISO 1656, *Rubber, raw natural, and rubber latex, natural — Determination of nitrogen content*

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- ISO 1657, *Rubber, raw and rubber latex — Determination of iron content — 1,10-Phenanthroline photometric method*
- ISO 1802, *Natural rubber latex concentrate — Determination of boric acid content*
- ISO 2005, *Rubber latex, natural, concentrate — Determination of sludge content*
- ISO 2006-1, *Rubber latex, synthetic — Determination of mechanical stability — Part 1: High-speed method*
- ISO 2006-2, *Rubber latex, synthetic — Determination of mechanical stability — Part 2: Moderate-speed method under load*
- ISO 2115, *Plastics — Polymer dispersions — Determination of white point temperature and minimum film-forming temperature*
- ISO 23529, *Rubber — General procedures for preparing and conditioning test pieces for physical test methods*
- ISO 2555, *Plastics — Resins in the liquid state or as emulsions or dispersions — Determination of apparent viscosity by the Brookfield Test method*
- ISO 2811-1, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density — Part 1: Pycnometer method*
- ISO 2811-3, *Paints and varnishes — Determination of density — Part 3: Oscillation method*
- ISO 3136, *Rubber latex — Styrene-butadiene — Determination of bound styrene content*
- ISO 3219, *Plastics — Polymers/resins in the liquid state or as emulsions or dispersions — Determination of viscosity using a rotational viscometer with defined shear rate*
- ISO 3251, *Paints, varnishes and plastics — Determination of non-volatile-matter content*
- ISO 3899, *Rubber — Nitrile latex — Determination of residual acrylonitrile content*
- ISO 3900, *Rubber — Nitrile latex — Determination of bound acrylonitrile content*
- ISO 4576, *Plastics — Polymer dispersions — Determination of sieve residue (gross particle and coagulum content)*
- ISO 4655, *Rubber — Reinforced styrene-butadiene latex — Determination of total bound styrene content*
- ISO 7143, *Binders for paints and varnishes — Methods of test for characterizing water-based binders*
- ISO 7780, *Rubbers and rubber latices — Determination of manganese content — Sodium periodate photometric methods*
- ISO 8053, *Rubber and latex — Determination of copper content — Photometric method*
- ISO 9252, *Synthetic rubber latex — Microbiological examination*
- ISO 13741-1, *Plastics/rubber — Polymer dispersions and rubber latices (natural and synthetic) — Determination of residual monomers and other organic components by capillary-column gas chromatography — Part 1: Direct liquid injection method*
- ISO 13741-2, *Plastics/rubber — Polymer dispersions and rubber latices (natural and synthetic) — Determination of residual monomers and other organic components by capillary-column gas chromatography — Part 2: Headspace method*
- ISO 13773, *Rubber — Polychloroprene latex — Determination of alkalinity*
- ISO 23529, *Rubber — General procedures for preparing and conditioning test pieces for physical test methods*

NOTE Where individual standards overlap, it is intended that they will be harmonized by the Technical Committees responsible for them, ISO/TC 45 and ISO/TC 61.

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **dispersion**

heterogeneous system in which a finely divided material is distributed in another material

[SOURCE: ISO 472]

#### 3.2

##### **polymer dispersion**

liquid to semi-liquid material, usually milky-white, containing the polymeric material in a stable condition finely dispersed in a continuous liquid phase, normally water

#### 3.3

##### **latex**

colloidal aqueous dispersion of a polymeric material

[SOURCE: ISO 472]

Note 1 to entry: Frequently, "latex" is also used as a synonym for polymer dispersions in general.

Note 2 to entry: Polymer dispersions and latices are often further explained by adding the designation of the base polymer by name or by abbreviation, for instance polyacrylate dispersion, SBR latex.

### 4 Sampling

Sampling shall be carried out in accordance with ISO 123 (rubber latex).

Representative samples of polymer dispersions and of latices are a prerequisite for reliable and reproducible results from the test methods. Therefore the material to be tested shall be uniform.

### 5 Conditioning

The conditioning and testing atmosphere shall comply with the specified test method or referring standard, as applicable. If there are no such requirements, then samples shall be conditioned and tests carried out in one of the standard atmospheres specified in either ISO 291 for polymer dispersions or ISO 23529 for latices, as appropriate.

### 6 Test methods

Test methods shall be selected from those given in [Table 1](#) for rubber latices, and those in [Table 2](#) for polymer dispersions, as appropriate.

Table 1 — Test methods developed by ISO/TC 45

| Property  | Units              | Test method          | Comments                           |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Physical and physico-chemical properties</b>   |                    |                      |                                    |
| Mechanical stability  | s                  | ISO 35               | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Total solids content  | % (m/m)            | ISO 124              |                                    |
| Alkalinity  | g/100 g of latex   | ISO 125              | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Dry rubber content  | % (m/m)            | ISO 126              | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Density   | Mg/m <sup>3</sup>  | ISO 705              | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Coagulum content (sieve residue)  | % (m/m)            | ISO 706 <sup>a</sup> |                                    |
| pH  | pH-units           | ISO 976 <sup>a</sup> |                                    |
| Surface tension   | mN/m               | ISO 1409             |                                    |
| Viscosity   | mPa × s            | ISO 1652             | Apparent viscosity                 |
| Sludge content  | % (m/m)            | ISO 2005             | Natural rubber latex only          |
| High-speed mechanical stability   | % (m/m)            | ISO 2006             | Synthetic rubber latex only        |
| Microbiological examination   | —                  | ISO 9252             |                                    |
| <b>Chemical properties</b>  |                    |                      |                                    |
| KOH number  |                    | ISO 127              | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Volatile fatty acid number  |                    | ISO 506              | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Nitrogen content  | % (m/m)            | ISO 1656             | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Iron content (1,10-phenanthroline photometric method)   | ppm (m/m)          | ISO 1657             |                                    |
| Boric acid content  | % (m/m)            | ISO 1802             | Natural rubber latex only          |
| Bound styrene content   | % (m/m)            | ISO 3136             | Styrene-butadiene latex            |
| Residual acrylonitrile content  | % (m/m)            | ISO 3899             | Nitrile latex                      |
| Bound acrylonitrile content   | % (m/m)            | ISO 3900             | Nitrile latex                      |
| Total bound styrene content   | % (m/m)            | ISO 4655             | Reinforced styrene-butadiene latex |
| Manganese content (sodium periodate photometric method)   | mg/kg              | ISO 7780             |                                    |
| Copper content (photometric method)   | mg/kg              | ISO 8053             | Synthetic rubber latex only        |
| Alkalinity  | mmol HCl per 100 g | ISO 13773            |                                    |
| <b>General</b>  |                    |                      |                                    |
| Sampling  | —                  | ISO 123              |                                    |
| <sup>a</sup> Test methods for polymer dispersions used as raw materials for paints are specified in ISO 7143. |                    |                      |                                    |