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**Plastics — Vinyl chloride homopolymer and  
copolymer resins — Sieve analysis in water**

*Plastiques — Résines d'homopolymères et de copolymères de chlorure de  
vinyle — Analyse granulométrique par tamisage sous courant d'eau*

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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.ch](mailto:copyright@iso.ch)  
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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 3.

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 International Standard may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 1624 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Thermoplastic materials*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 1624:1978), which has been modified in the following respects:

- the drying temperature has been raised from 80 °C to 110 °C;
- a precision statement based on current test data has been included.

# Plastics — Vinyl chloride homopolymer and copolymer resins — Sieve analysis in water

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of the sieve retention of vinyl chloride homopolymer and copolymer resins. Control of this characteristic can help to ensure consistency of supply and predictable processing behaviour.

## 2 Normative reference

The following normative document contains provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the normative document indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 565, *Test sieves — Metal wire cloth, perforated metal plate and electroformed sheet — Nominal sizes of openings*

## 3 Term and definition

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following term and definition apply.

### 3.1

#### **sieve retention**

the percentage, by mass, of resin remaining on the sieve after a sieve analysis test

## 4 Principle

A test portion is sieved under a stream of water, using standard-aperture sieves.

NOTE Sieving under a stream of water gives truer results than a dry sieving method in which static electricity interferes. This method is particularly suited to emulsion resins.

## 5 Reagent

5.1 **Wetting agent**, for example a 5 % to 10 % solution of sodium alkylsulfonate.

## 6 Apparatus

**6.1 Set of two sieves**, diameter 200 mm to 300 mm, height 30 mm to 50 mm, having mesh sizes 0,063 mm and 0,250 mm, and fitted with deflectors to prevent loss of sample by spray (see Figure 1).

NOTE Other mesh sizes may be used provided that

- the prescribed sieves are also used;
- new sieves are chosen from the series provided in ISO 565.

**6.2 Balance**, accurate to  $\pm 0,01$  g, range and size sufficient to accommodate the sieves and the filtered resin [see 7.1 b)].

**6.3 Oven**, capable of being maintained at  $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**6.4 Filter**, placed between the water supply tap and the apparatus, and intended to exclude impurities in the water supply.

**6.5 Sprinkling device**, for one or, better, several sieves, designed so that:

- the mesh and inside walls of the sieve are thoroughly sprinkled over their entire surface;
- the resin is agitated by the jets, e.g. by using jet apertures inclined at an angle to the screen of the sieve;
- the inclination of the jets is such as to prevent track formation in the resin, e.g. by crossing the jet directions;
- the sprayed water passes immediately through the screen and no bulk accumulation of water occurs on it during the sieving of resins.

The water shall finally pass into a dark-coloured vessel to check for the absence of resin particles in the water.

Figure 1 shows a schematic apparatus including a rotating sprinkling device for several sieves, and is given as an example meeting the requirements of this International Standard.

**6.6 Filter funnel or filter crucible** with adaptor, diameter 40 mm and mean pore size 20  $\mu\text{m}$  to 40  $\mu\text{m}$ .

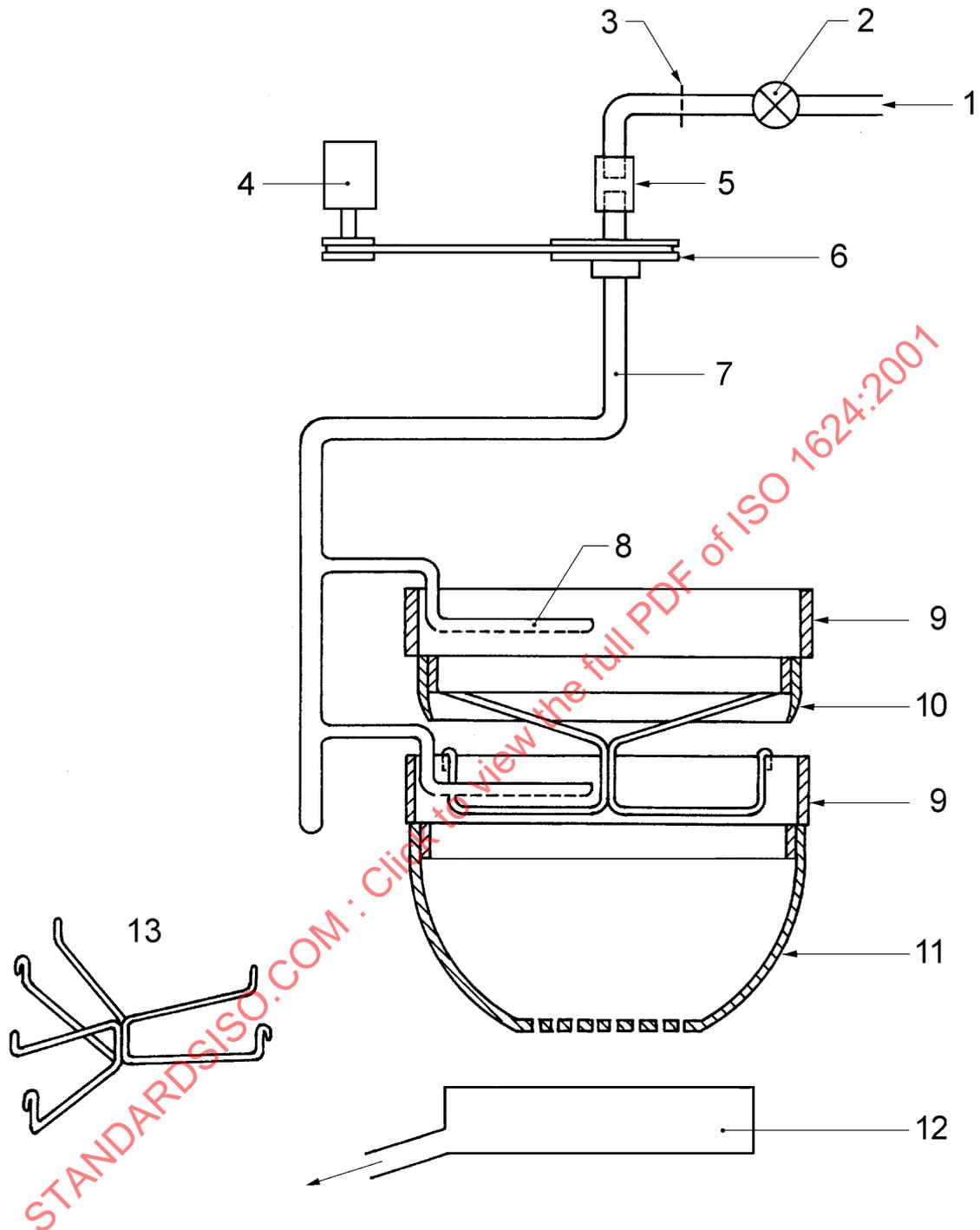
## 7 Procedure

### 7.1 General

This International Standard permits several variations, namely:

- a) It is possible
  - either to conduct a single test using two superimposed screens, provided that a sprinkler device is fitted to each sieve (see Figure 1) (recommended method),
  - or to carry out two tests on two separate test portions, using a different sieve each time.
- b) It is possible to dry the residue
  - either in a filter funnel or in a filter crucible (recommended method),
  - or directly on the sieve.

The latter method requires the sieves to be resistant to repeated heating and cooling (for example, they should be constructed from stainless steel).



**Key**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Water                            | 8 1-mm-thick slotted spray plate (ID 3 mm to 4 mm) |
| 2 Flow-regulating valve            | 9 Sieve  |
| 3 Filter                           | 10 Deflector                                       |
| 4 Motor                            | 11 Bowl with perforated bottom                     |
| 5 Rotating joint                   | 12 Dark-coloured dish                              |
| 6 Pulley controlling spray plates  | 13 Stainless-steel sieve support                   |
| 7 $\varnothing$ int. 3 mm to 10 mm |  |

**Figure 1 — Sketch of multiple-sieve spraying device**

## 7.2 Sieving

If, at the end of the operation, it is desired to weigh the resin on the sieve, weigh the sieves to the nearest 0,1 g after drying them in the oven (6.3), at  $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , for 1 h and cooling in a desiccator.

Place the sieve or sieves below the sprinkling device and arrange the bowl with a perforated bottom and the dark-coloured dish beneath them to take the water away to a sink. If several superimposed sieves are used, they shall be arranged from top to bottom according to decreasing mesh size.

Weigh, to the nearest 0,1 g, approximately 25 g (mass  $m$ ) of the resin into a 400 ml beaker. Add a suitable quantity of wetting agent (5.1) followed by two portions, each of approximately 50 ml, of water, mixing carefully after each addition.

NOTE The quantity of wetting agent added depends on the type of resin being tested. For some resins composed of very fine particles, it may be necessary to add the wetting-agent solution progressively, mixing it in with a glass rod to obtain a paste, which is then diluted gradually before pouring it on the upper sieve, where the resin should then not form lumps or agglomerates.

Set the sprinkler system in operation, taking care that the meshes are well moistened. Introduce the prepared suspension, in one or several goes, into the upper sieve and carefully rinse the beaker several times, pouring the washings into the upper sieve each time.

Apply the fastest rate of water consistent with the avoidance of overflowing or splashing.

Complete the sieving by hand spraying until the drain-off liquid in the dark-coloured dish is free from particles.

Lift each sieve and, using water jets, transfer to the next lower sieve any particles that might have remained adhering to its underside.

## 7.3 Drying and weighing

### 7.3.1 Drying on a filter bed

Wash the filter funnel or filter crucible, dry at  $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and weigh to the nearest 0,1 g after cooling in a desiccator.

Transfer the residue on each sieve quantitatively, using water jets, to this funnel or crucible fitted on a vacuum filtering flask.

Dry the funnel or crucible (with the residue from one sieve) at  $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the oven to constant mass. Weigh to the nearest 0,1 g after cooling in a desiccator.

Calculate the mass of residue by subtracting the mass of the funnel or crucible from the mass of the funnel or crucible plus residue.

### 7.3.2 Drying on the sieve

Place each sieve, with its residue, in the oven, maintained at  $110\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and dry to constant mass. Weigh to the nearest 0,1 g after cooling in a desiccator.

Calculate the mass of residue by subtracting the mass of the sieve determined as described in 7.2 from the mass of the sieve plus residue.

## 7.4 Number of determinations

Each determination shall be carried out in duplicate. Do not take the results into consideration unless the following conditions are fulfilled:

### a) Residue (calculated as indicated in clause 8) not less than 5 %

The two measurements are acceptable if the difference between their absolute values is less than or equal to 2 %.

### b) Residue (calculated as indicated in clause 8) less than 5 %

The two measurements are acceptable if the difference between their absolute values is less than or equal to 1 %.

If these conditions are not fulfilled, further duplicate determinations shall be carried out.

## 8 Expression of results

### 8.1 For the case when two superimposed sieves are used:

Let

$m_1$  and  $m_1'$  be the masses, in grams, of residue on the 0,250 mm mesh sieve in each of the determinations;

$m_2$  and  $m_2'$  be the masses, in grams, of residue on the 0,063 mm mesh sieve in each of the determinations.

Calculate the total residue on both sieves in each determination,  $M_T$  and  $M_T'$ :

$$M_T = m_1 + m_2 \quad \text{and} \quad M_T' = m_1' + m_2'$$

Calculate the arithmetic mean  $\bar{m}_1$  of  $m_1$  and  $m_1'$  and the arithmetic mean  $\bar{M}_T$  of  $M_T$  and  $M_T'$ .

**8.2** If two sieves are used separately in separate runs, direct measurement is made of  $m_1$  and  $m_1'$  and of  $M_T$  and  $M_T'$ , from which  $\bar{m}_1$  and  $\bar{M}_T$  can be obtained directly.

**8.3** Using the values of  $\bar{m}_1$  and  $\bar{M}_T$  obtained, calculate the percentages of residue retained by each sieve from the following equations:

$$\text{Residue retained by 0,250 mm sieve (R 250)} = \frac{\bar{m}_1}{\bar{M}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Residue retained by 0,063 mm sieve (R 63)} = \frac{\bar{M}_T}{\bar{M}} \times 100$$

where  $\bar{M}$  is the average mass, in grams,

- either of the two test portions in the case where two sieves are used superimposed in the same test run;
- or of the two test portions (used for each sieve) where the two sieves are used in separate test runs.