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**Footwear — Test methods for heels —
Fatigue resistance**

*Chaussures — Méthodes d'essai relatives aux talons — Résistance à
la fatigue*

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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.org
Web www.iso.org

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Foreword

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ISO 19956 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 216, *Footwear*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Throughout the text of this document, read “...this European Standard...” to mean “...this International Standard...”.

Contents

page

Foreword.....	v
1 Scope	1
2 Terms and definitions	1
3 Apparatus and material	1
4 Sampling and conditioning.....	3
5 Test method.....	3
6 Expression of results	4
7 Test report	4

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Foreword

This document (EN ISO 19956:2004) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN /TC 309 "Footwear", the secretariat of which is held by AENOR, in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 216 "Footwear".

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2005, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2005.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

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1 Scope

This European Standard specifies a test method for determining the ability of heels of ladies' shoes to withstand the repeated small impacts imposed by normal walking. Although intended primarily for plastics heels, the procedure is also usable for testing steel heel dowels on their own.

NOTE While the test method is applicable to all types of high heels of any construction, it is particularly useful for injection-moulded plastics heels which incorporate a steel dowel reinforcement. The shape of some heels is such that they have a high fatigue resistance. It is usually considered unnecessary to test such heels for fatigue resistance.

2 Terms and definitions

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

fatigue resistance

resistance of a heel, under specified conditions, to repeated loading cycles.

3 Apparatus and material

3.1 The following apparatus and material shall be used:

3.2 **Heel fatigue-testing apparatus**, incorporating a motor-driven pendulum which can deliver blows to a test specimen assembly, each blow having an energy of 0,68 J at the rate of one blow per second. The apparatus is clamped either on to a solid built-in bench, or on to a rigid free-standing frame anchored to the floor (see NOTE). An example of a suitable apparatus is shown in Figure 1.

NOTE If the apparatus is not firmly mounted, there is a partial loss of energy on impact, thereby producing false results.

The apparatus shall include the following:

3.2.1 **Pendulum**, consisting of a circular steel bob of diameter 57 mm \pm 1 mm and thickness 20 mm \pm 1 mm, which is fixed by a circular shaft of diameter 12,5 mm \pm 1,0 mm to a hub on the bearing axle. The distance from the centre of the bob to the centre of the hub is 152 mm \pm 2 mm. The moment of the pendulum when is held horizontally is 0,68 N·m \pm 0,02 N·m.

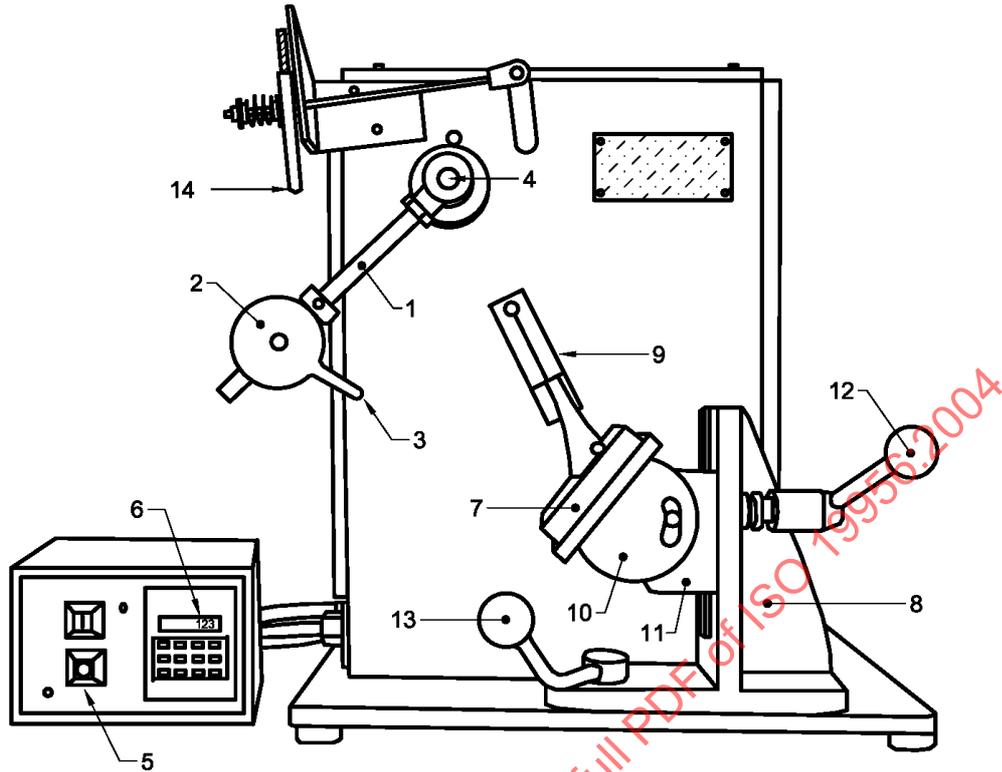
3.2.2 **Striker head**, consisting of a strip of metal 6,0 mm \pm 0,5 mm thick, 20 mm \pm 1 mm wide and 35 mm \pm 2 mm long with the striking edge rounded to a radius of 3,0 mm \pm 0,5 mm. The head is fixed rigidly to the pendulum bob so that the striker tip and centre of the bob lie on the same circle of swing of the pendulum and are 63,5 mm \pm 2 mm apart.

3.2.3 **Rebound damper**, for the pendulum.

3.2.4 **Base clamp**, for holding the metal mounting tray (3.3) and for adjusting it vertically and horizontally to achieve correct alignment of the heel tip.

3.2.5 **Counter**, for recording the number of blows.

3.2.6 **Overshoot cut-out device**, which operates when the pendulum overshoots a broken heel stem at complete failure.



Key

- 1 Pendulum
- 2 Pendulum bob
- 3 Striker head
- 4 Hub
- 5 Power supply switch
- 6 Counter
- 7 Test specimen assembly
- 8 Vertical locking plate
- 9 Sighting plate for aligning the heel
- 10 Base clamp for rotation orientation
- 11 Clamp for vertical orientation
- 12 Device for locking 10 and 11 against 8
- 13 Horizontal locking device
- 14 Rebound damper, for the pendulum

Figure 1 — Heel fatigue-testing apparatus

3.3 Metal mounting trays. An example of a suitable apparatus is shown in Figure 2. Each to contain a heel set in low melting point metal alloy (3.4).

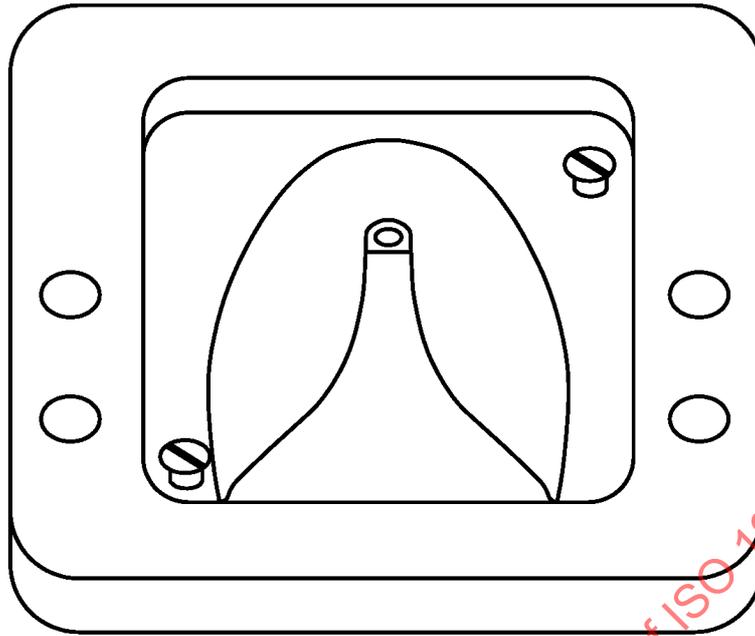


Figure 2 — Metal mounting tray with heel in position before addition of molten metal alloy

3.4 **Metal alloy**, melting point between 100 °C and 150 °C.

4 Sampling and conditioning

4.1 Take three heels and set each heel in a dry metal mounting tray (3.3), using the procedure described in 4.2, to obtain a test specimen assembly.

4.2 Place the heel centrally in the tray so that the seat breast edge is against a flat end of the tray and heel tip points upwards (see Figure 2). Heat the metal alloy (3.4) until it is at the lowest temperature at which it will flow into all parts of the tray. Pour it into the tray filling the space around the heel to within 3 mm from the top of the tray. Allow the metal alloy to cool and set, thereby providing a rigid mounting for the heel.

5 Test method

5.1 Principle

A heel is subjected to blows, each of specified energy, delivered by a pendulum once a second. Testing continues until failure of the heel takes place, or until satisfactory fatigue resistance is obvious.

5.2 Procedure

5.2.1 With the pendulum in the rest position, insert the test specimen assembly in the inclined part of the base clamp (3.2.4) of the heel fatigue-testing apparatus (3.2) with the back of the heel facing the pendulum. Set the test specimen assembly at suitable angle to the horizontal so that the blow will be applied approximately at right angles to the heel stem.

Adjust the position of the test specimen assembly in the base clamp until the striker (3.2.2) barely contacts the heel 6 mm below the heel tip. Set the counter (3.2.5) to “zero” (or note the riding), and start the machine ensuring that the overshoot cut-out device is activated.

5.2.2 At intervals of 60 min check whether any damage has developed that still allows the pendulum to continue in motion. If it has, record the number of blows shown by the machine counter and describe the type of damage.