
**Footwear — Test methods for insoles and
insocks — Water absorption and
desorption**

*Chaussures — Méthodes d'essai applicables aux premières de
montage et aux premières de propreté — Absorption et désorption
d'eau*

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Foreword

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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.

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ISO 22649 was prepared by CEN (as EN 12746:2000) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by Technical Committee ISO/TC 216, *Footwear*, in parallel with its approval by the ISO member bodies.

The version of EN 12746 reproduced in this International Standard incorporates the amendment EN 12746/A1:2003.

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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 309 "Footwear", the secretariat of which is held by AENOR.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2000, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2000.

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

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1 Scope

This European standard specifies two test methods for determining the water absorption and desorption of insoles and insocks, irrespective of the material.

These methods are:

- Method A: Determination of the static water absorption and desorption of insoles and insocks.
- Method B: Determination of the dynamic water absorption and desorption of insoles

2 Normative references

This European Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate places in the text and the publications are listed hereafter. For dated references, subsequent amendments to or revisions of any of these publications apply to this European Standard only when incorporated in it by amendment or revision. For undated references the latest edition of the publication referred to applies.

EN 12222, *Footwear – Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing of footwear and components for footwear*

EN 13400:2001, *Footwear – Sampling location, preparation and duration of conditioning of samples and test pieces*

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this standard the following definitions apply:

3.1

water absorption

the gain in mass per area unit of the test piece due to water absorption during one or more specified periods of time

3.2

water desorption

the percentage loss in mass of the test piece, expressed in terms of the mass of water absorbed

4 Apparatus and material

The following apparatus and material shall be used:

4.1 Method A

4.1.1 Laboratory balance with an accuracy of 0,01 g.

4.1.2 Square knife, to cut a test piece of (50 mm ± 1 mm) x (50 mm ± 1 mm). The inner surface of the knife shall be angled outward from the cutting edge at approximately 5° to the vertical so that when the test piece is cut the knife passes through it without damage to the test piece edge.

4.1.3 Filter paper

4.1.4 Distilled water

4.1.5 Beaker or recipient with flat bottom and suitable dimensions.

4.1.6 Vernier calipers, capable of measuring to an accuracy of 0,2 mm.

4.2 Method B

4.2.1 Apparatus (as indicated in figure 1) composed of:

4.2.1.1 Brass roller (A), of diameter $120 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}$ and width $50 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}$, which is placed over the test piece (B).

4.2.1.2 Platform (C) is covered, with a roughened upper surface and with sufficient perforations to allow the surface to be kept wet by a flow of water through the platform. The upper surface of the platform (C) is covered, by a strip of cotton gauze.

4.2.1.3 Clamp (D), to hold one short side of the test piece (B) in a horizontal position on the platform (C).

4.2.1.4 Clamp (E), to attach the other short side of the test piece to the roller with the attached side being parallel to the axis of the roller.

The clamp is held by a weak spring to maintain the sample under slight tension.

4.2.1.5 Water supply (F), through the platform (C) and a means of draining away excess water.

4.2.1.6 Means of moving the axis of the roller, with a *to-and-fro* motion along the X-X axis, with an amplitude of $50 \text{ mm} \pm 2 \text{ mm}$ about a point directly over the mid point of the test piece and frequency of (20 ± 1) cycles per minute.

The movement of the axis causes the roller to move backwards and forwards along the test piece, raising one end and bending it to conform to the shape of the roller.

4.2.1.7 Means of pressing the platform, test piece and roller together with a force of $80 \text{ N} \pm 5 \text{ N}$.

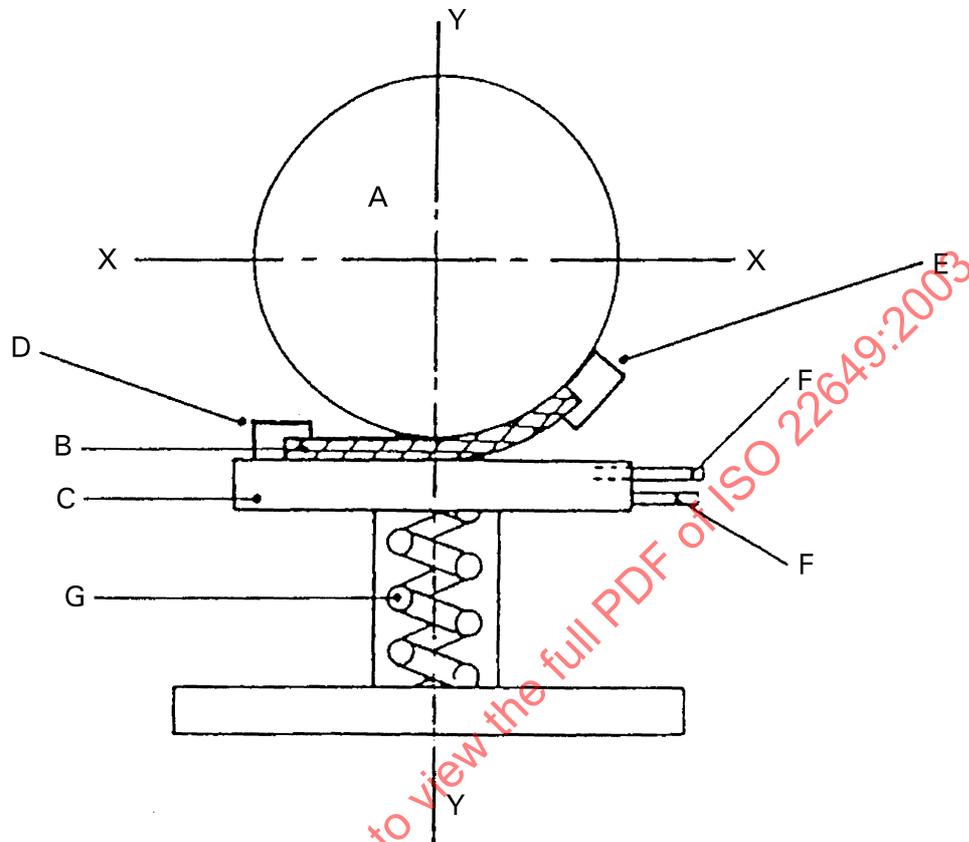


Figure 1 – Device for measuring water absorption and desorption

4.2.2 **Press knife** to cut test pieces of dimensions $(110 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}) \times (40 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm})$.

4.2.3 **Balance**, reading to 0,001 g.

4.2.4 **Clock**, reading to 1 s.

4.2.5 **Silicone grease**.

5 Sampling and conditioning

5.1 Method A

Using the square knife described in 4.1.2, cut a test piece of dimensions $(50 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}) \times (50 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm})$ from the shoe insole or insock, cut insole or insock, or from the

components as supplied. If the test pieces are taken from the shoe or from the cut components, sampling shall be done in accordance with EN 13400.

Condition the test pieces according to EN 12222, for a minimum of 24 h.

Minimum two test pieces are necessary.

5.2 Method B

5.2.1 In the case of footwear, the test pieces should be taken from the forepart of the insole, in the longitudinal sense. For sheet materials, the test pieces shall be taken in the two principal directions, one at 90° to the other.

5.2.2 Test specimens are strips of $(110 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm}) \times (40 \text{ mm} \pm 1 \text{ mm})$ and shall be placed in a conditioned atmosphere as specified in EN 12222 for 48 h prior to the test.

5.2.3 Apply a little silicone grease over the edges of the test piece in order to prevent the ingress of water through the sides.

6 Test method

6.1 Method A

6.1.1 Determination of the water absorption

Measure (see 4.1.6) the length and the width of the test piece in millimetres to the nearest 0,2 mm. Calculate the area A in square metres.

Weigh the test piece (see 4.1.1) to the nearest 0,01 g, and record its mass, M_0 .

Place the test piece in distilled water conditioned according to EN 12222 for 6 h. Then remove it, dry off any remaining drops of water using filter paper and reweigh it, recording its mass, M_1 .

The temperature of the test shall be $20 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 2 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$.

6.1.2 Determination of the water desorption

On completion of the test specified in 6.1.1, condition the test piece for 16 h according to EN 12222 and then reweigh it (see 4.1.1), recording its mass, M_2 .

6.2 Method B

6.2.1 Principle

A test piece is positioned on a wet base plate and is submitted to repeat flexing under a given pressure (in the same manner as the insole of a shoe during walking).

6.2.2 Determination of the water absorption

6.2.2.1 Weigh the piece to the nearest 0,001 g (M_0).

6.2.2.2 Place the cotton gauze on the platform (C).

6.2.2.3 Apply the test piece in the apparatus with the surface which would be in contact with the foot, in contact with platform (C) covered with the cotton gauze. Attach the narrow ends to the platform and roller, apply a force of $80 \text{ N} \pm 5 \text{ N}$.

6.2.2.4 Open the valve for the arrival of water and adjust a flow of water of 7,5 ml/min over the platform.

6.2.2.5 Switch on the machine and note the time.

6.2.2.6 After a suitable period (15 min) stop the water supply 1 min before stopping the machine.

6.2.2.7 Remove the test piece and weigh it to the nearest 0,001 g.

6.2.2.8 Replace the test piece in the apparatus, open the water valve and continue the test.

6.2.2.9 If the test piece is removed before the 8 h period, keep it in a plastic bag time enough to accomplish the night drying time (16 h) established in 6.2.3.

6.2.3 Determination of the water desorption

Recondition the test piece in a standard controlled environment specified in EN 12222 for a period of 16 h, then reweigh the test piece to the nearest 0,001 g. (M_R).

7 Expression of results

7.1 Method A

7.1.1 Water absorption

Calculate the water absorption, w_A , expressed in grams per square metre using the following equation:

$$W_A = \frac{M_F - M_O}{A}$$

where

M_O is the initial mass of the test piece, i.e. in its dry condition, in grams;

M_F is the final mass of the test piece, i.e. in its wet condition, in grams;

A is the area of the test piece, in square metres.

Express the water absorption to the nearest 1 g/m².

The result will be the average of the two results.

7.1.2 Water desorption

Calculate the water desorption, w_D , as a percentage of mass using the following equation:

$$W_D = \frac{M_F - M_R}{M_F - M_O} \times 100$$

where

M_O is the initial mass of the test piece, in grams;

M_F is the final mass of the test piece, in grams;

M_R is the mass of the reconditioned test piece, in grams.

Report the water desorption to the nearest 1 %.

7.2 Method B

7.2.1 Water absorption

Calculate the water absorption, w_A , expressed in grams per square metre using the following equation:

$$W_A = \frac{M_F - M_O}{A}$$

where

M_O is the initial mass of the test piece, in grams;

M_F is the final mass of the test piece, in grams;

A is the area of the test piece, in square metres.

Express the water absorption to the nearest 1 g/m².

7.2.2 Water desorption

Calculate the water desorption, w_D , as a percentage of the mass of water absorbed using the following equation:

$$W_D = \frac{M_F - M_R}{M_F - M_O} \times 100$$

where

M_O is the initial mass of the test piece, in grams;

M_F is the final mass of the test piece, in grams;

M_R is the mass of the reconditioned test piece, in grams.

Report the water desorption to the nearest 1 %.

8 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

8.1 Method A

- the results for water absorption and water desorption, expressed in accordance with 7.1.1 and 7.1.2;
- nature and full identification of the sample;
- description of sampling procedure, where relevant;
- reference to the method of test;
- details of any deviation from the standard test procedure;
- the date of testing.