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**Plastics — Styrene/acrylonitrile (SAN)  
moulding and extrusion materials —**

**Part 1:**

**Designation system and basis for  
specifications**

*Plastiques — Styène/acrylonitrile (SAN) pour moulage et extrusion —*

*Partie 1: Système de désignation et base de spécification*



## 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 4894-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 9, *Thermoplastic materials*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4894-1:1990), the text of which has been brought into accordance with the standard SC 9 frame text.

ISO 4894 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Plastics — Styrene/acrylonitrile (SAN) moulding and extrusion materials*:

- *Part 1: Designation system and basis for specifications*
- *Part 2: Preparation of test specimens and determination of properties*

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# Plastics — Styrene/acrylonitrile (SAN) moulding and extrusion materials —

## Part 1:

### Designation system and basis for specifications

#### 1 Scope

**1.1** This part of ISO 4894 establishes a system of designation for styrene/acrylonitrile thermoplastic material, which may be used as the basis for specifications.

**1.2** The types of styrene/acrylonitrile plastic are differentiated from each other by a classification system based on appropriate levels of the designatory properties

- a) Vicat softening temperature
- b) melt flow rate

and on information about basic polymer parameters, intended application and/or method of processing, important properties, additives, colourants, fillers and reinforcing materials.

**1.3** This part of ISO 4894 is applicable to all copolymers of styrene and/or substituted styrene having between 10 % (*m/m*) and 50 % (*m/m*) acrylonitrile.

It applies to materials ready for normal use and to materials unmodified or modified by colourants, additives, fillers, etc.

**1.4** It is not intended to imply that materials having the same designation give necessarily the same performance. This part of ISO 4894 does not provide engineering data, performance data or data on processing conditions which may be required to specify a material for a particular application and/or method of processing.

If such additional properties are required, they shall be determined in accordance with the test methods specified in part 2 of this International Standard, if suitable.

**1.5** In order to specify a thermoplastic material for a particular application or to ensure reproducible processing, additional requirements may be given in data block 5 (see clause 3, introductory paragraph).

#### 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 4894. 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 4894 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 1043-1:1997, *Plastics — Symbols and abbreviated terms — Part 1: Basic polymers and their special characteristics*.

ISO 1043-2:1988, *Plastics — Symbols — Part 2: Fillers and reinforcing materials*.

ISO 4894-2:1995, *Plastics — Styrene/acrylonitrile (SAN) moulding and extrusion materials — Part 2: Preparation of test specimens and determination of properties*.

### 3 Designation system

The designation system for thermoplastics is based on the following standardized pattern:

Designation						
Description block (optional)	Identity block					
	International Standard number block	Individual-item block				
		Data block 1	Data block 2	Data block 3	Data block 4	Data block 5

The designation consists of an optional description block, reading "Thermoplastics", and an identity block comprising the International Standard number and an individual-item block. For unambiguous designation, the individual-item block is subdivided into 5 data blocks comprising the following information:

- Data block 1: Identification of the plastic by its symbol SAN in accordance with ISO 1043-1 and information about the composition of the polymer (see 3.1).
- Data block 2: Position 1: Intended application or method of processing (see 3.2).  
Positions 2 to 8: Important properties, additives and supplementary information (see 3.2).
- Data block 3: Designatory properties (see 3.3).
- Data block 4: Fillers or reinforcing materials and their nominal content (see 3.4).
- Data block 5: For the purpose of specifications, a fifth data block may be added containing additional information.

The first character of the individual-item block shall be a hyphen. The data blocks shall be separated from each other by commas.

If a data block is not used, this shall be indicated by doubling the separation sign, i.e. by two commas (,,).

#### 3.1 Data block 1

In this data block, after the hyphen, styrene/acrylonitrile plastics are identified by the symbol SAN, in accordance with ISO 1043-1, and, after a space, the acrylonitrile content of the continuous phase is designated by a single-figure code-number as specified in table 1.

**Table 1 — Ranges of acrylonitrile content in data block 1**

Code number	Range of AN content % (m/m)
1	> 10 but ≤ 20
2	> 20 but ≤ 30
3	> 30

For the purposes of this part of ISO 4894, the AN content of the continuous phase shall be determined as specified in ISO 4894-2:1995, annex A.

### 3.2 Data block 2

In this data block, information about intended application and/or method of processing is given in position 1 and information about important properties, additives and colour in positions 2 to 8. The code-letters used are specified in table 2.

If information is presented in positions 2 to 8 and no specific information is given in position 1, the letter X shall be inserted in position 1.

**Table 2 — Code-letters used in data block 2**

Code-letter	Position 1	Code-letter	Positions 2 to 8
		<b>C</b>	Coloured
<b>E</b>	Extrusion		
		<b>F</b>	Special burning characteristics
<b>G</b>	General use		
		<b>L</b>	Light or weather stabilized
<b>M</b>	Moulding		
		<b>N</b>	Natural (no colour added)
		<b>R</b>	Mould release agent
		<b>S</b>	Lubricated
		<b>T</b>	Transparent
<b>X</b>	No indication		
		<b>Z</b>	Antistatic

### 3.3 Data block 3

In this data block, the range of the Vicat softening temperature is represented by a 3-figure code-number (see 3.3.1) and the range of the melt flow rate by a 2-figure code-number (see 3.3.2). The code-numbers are separated from each other by hyphens.

If a property value falls on or near a range limit, the manufacturer shall state which range will designate the material. If subsequent individual test values lie on, or on either side of, the limit because of manufacturing tolerances, the designation is not affected.

NOTE — Not all combinations of the values of the designatory properties have to be provided for currently available polymers.

### 3.3.1 Vicat softening temperature

The Vicat softening temperature shall be determined in accordance with ISO 4894-2.

The possible values of the Vicat softening temperature are divided into 4 ranges, each represented by a 3-figure code-number as specified in table 3.

**Table 3 — Ranges of Vicat softening temperature in data block 3**

Code-number	Range of Vicat softening temperature (°C)
085	≤ 90
095	> 90 but ≤ 100
105	> 100 but ≤ 110
115	> 110

### 3.3.2 Melt flow rate

The melt mass-flow rate (MFR) shall be determined in accordance with ISO 4894-2.

The possible values of the melt mass-flow rate are divided into 4 ranges, each represented by a 2-figure code-number as specified in table 4.

**Table 4 — Ranges of melt mass-flow rate in data block 3**

Code-number	Range of melt mass-flow rate (MFR) g/10 min
04	≤ 5
08	> 5 but ≤ 10
15	> 10 but ≤ 20
25	> 20

NOTE — Melt mass-flow rate (MFR) will be replaced by melt volume-flow rate (MVR) at the next five-year revision of this part of ISO 4894.

## 3.4 Data block 4

In this data block, the type of filler and/or reinforcing material is represented by a single code-letter in position 1 and its physical form by a second code-letter in position 2, the code-letters being as specified in table 5. Subsequently (without a space), the filler/reinforcing-material content by mass may be given by a 2-figure number in positions 3 and 4, as specified in table 6.

Table 5 — Code-letters for fillers and reinforcing materials in data block 4

Code-letter	Material	Code-letter	Form
<b>B</b>	Boron	<b>B</b>	Beads, spheres, balls
<b>C</b>	Carbon <sup>1)</sup>		
		<b>D</b>	Powder
		<b>F</b>	Fibre
<b>G</b>	Glass	<b>G</b>	Ground
		<b>H</b>	Whiskers
<b>K</b>	Calcium carbonate		
<b>M</b>	Mineral <sup>1) 2)</sup> , metal <sup>1)</sup>		
<b>T</b>	Talc		
<b>X</b>	Not specified	<b>X</b>	Not specified
<b>Z</b>	Others <sup>1)</sup>	<b>Z</b>	Others <sup>1)</sup>

1) These materials may be further defined by their chemical symbol, for example, or additional symbols defined in the relevant International Standard. In the case of metals (M), it is essential to indicate the type of metal by means of its chemical symbol.

2) Mineral fillers shall be designated more precisely if a symbol is available.

Mixtures of materials and/or forms may be indicated by combining the relevant codes using the sign "+" and placing the whole between parentheses. For example, a mixture of 25 % glass fibres (GF) and 10 % mineral powder (MD) would be indicated by (GF25+MD10).

Table 6 — Ranges of filler/reinforcing-material content in data block 4

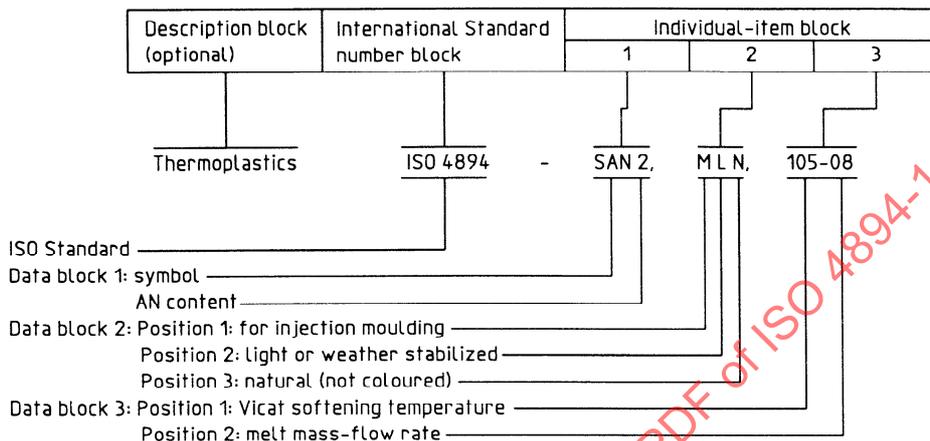
Code-number	Range of filler/reinforcing-material content % (m/m)
<b>05</b>	≤ 7,5
<b>10</b>	> 7,5 but ≤ 12,5
<b>15</b>	> 12,5 but ≤ 17,5
<b>20</b>	> 17,5 but ≤ 22,5
<b>25</b>	> 22,5 but ≤ 27,5
<b>30</b>	> 27,5 but ≤ 32,5
<b>35</b>	> 32,5 but ≤ 37,5
<b>40</b>	> 37,5 but ≤ 42,5

### 3.5 Data block 5

Indication of additional requirements in this optional data block is a way of transforming the designation of a material into a specification for a particular application. This may be done for example by reference to a suitable national standard or to a standard-like, generally established specification.

### 4 Example of a designation

A styrene/acrylonitrile copolymer thermoplastic material (SAN) with an acrylonitrile content of 25 % (m/m) (2), intended for injection moulding (M), light or weather stabilized (L), natural (not coloured) (N) and with a Vicat softening temperature VST/B50 of 101 °C (105) and a melt mass-flow rate of 6 g/10 min (08), would be designated.



**Designation:** Thermoplastics ISO 4894-SAN 2,MLN,105-08

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