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## **Anodized aluminium and aluminium alloys — Rating system for the evaluation of pitting corrosion — Grid method**

*Aluminium et alliages d'aluminium anodisés — Système de cotation de la corrosion  
par piqûres — Méthode par quadrillage*

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Reference number  
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## Foreword

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 8994 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 79, *Light metals and their alloys*.

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# Anodized aluminium and aluminium alloys — Rating system for the evaluation of pitting corrosion — Grid method

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a grid rating system that provides a means of defining levels of performance of anodic oxide coatings on aluminium and its alloys that have been subjected to corrosion tests.

This rating system is applicable to pitting corrosion resulting from

- accelerated tests;
- exposure to corrosive environments;
- practical service tests.

It takes into account only pitting corrosion of the basis metal resulting from penetration of the protective anodic coating. This system is frequently used for rating the results of short term corrosion tests on relatively thin anodic coatings such as those used in the automotive industry.

## 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this International Standard, the following definitions apply.

**2.1 significant surface** : The part of the surface covered by the anodic coating that is essential to the appearance or serviceability of the article.

NOTE — The edges of the article are not normally included in the significant surface.

**2.2 corrosion pit** : A surface corrosion defect at which the anodic oxide coating is penetrated.

NOTE — Decolouration or other surface defects which do not penetrate the coating do not count as corrosion pits.

## 3 Procedure for rating

### 3.1 Sample preparation

Use one of the following methods to remove corrosion products or deposits on the surface so that corrosion pits may be clearly discerned :

a) wipe with a slurry of fine pumice to abrade away corrosion products and dirt, then rinse in clear water and air dry;

or

b) dip for 5 min to 10 min in 30 % (m/m) nitric acid, prepared by diluting 1 volume of concentrated nitric acid ( $\rho$  1,40 g/ml) with 1 volume of water at 20 °C to 25 °C; rinse and dry as indicated in a);

or

c) dissolve the anodic coating itself in a hot phosphoric-chromic acid mixture; rinse and dry as indicated in a) so that pitting in the aluminium substrate may be discerned.

### NOTES

1 ISO 2106 : 1982, *Anodizing of aluminium and its alloys — Determination of mass per unit area (surface density) of anodic oxide coatings — Gravimetric method*, describes the preparation and use of this reagent for the purposes of dissolution of the anodic oxide coating.

2 Method c) is particularly useful for dark-coloured anodic coatings.

### 3.2 Determination of grid rating

Place a preprinted transparent grid with an area of at least 5 000 mm<sup>2</sup> and with grid squares of 5 mm × 5 mm over a selected area of the significant surface of the prepared test specimen. Count the number of grid squares occupied by one or more pits. The greater the number of squares, the more discriminating is the performance level. Disregard effects on the edges of samples. Calculate the percentage of defective squares, using the formula

$$\frac{N}{N_t} \times 100$$

where

$N$  is the number of 5 mm squares with pits;

$N_t$  is the total number of 5 mm squares.