

---

---

**Textiles — Test methods for  
nonwovens —**  
Part 15:  
**Determination of air permeability**

*Textiles — Methodes d'essai pour nontissés —  
Partie 15: Détermination de la perméabilité à l'air*

STANDARDSISO.COM : Click to view the full PDF of ISO 9073-15:2007



**PDF disclaimer**

This PDF file may contain embedded typefaces. In accordance with Adobe's licensing policy, this file may be printed or viewed but shall not be edited unless the typefaces which are embedded are licensed to and installed on the computer performing the editing. In downloading this file, parties accept therein the responsibility of not infringing Adobe's licensing policy. The ISO Central Secretariat accepts no liability in this area.

Adobe is a trademark of Adobe Systems Incorporated.

Details of the software products used to create this PDF file can be found in the General Info relative to the file; the PDF-creation parameters were optimized for printing. Every care has been taken to ensure that the file is suitable for use by ISO member bodies. In the unlikely event that a problem relating to it is found, please inform the Central Secretariat at the address given below.

STANDARDSISO.COM : Click to view the full PDF of ISO 9073-15:2007



**COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT**

© ISO 2007

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office  
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20  
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11  
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47  
E-mail [copyright@iso.org](mailto:copyright@iso.org)  
Web [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

Published in Switzerland

## 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 2.

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

ISO 9073-15 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*.

ISO 9073 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Textiles — Test methods for nonwovens*:

- *Part 1: Determination of mass per unit area*
- *Part 2: Determination of thickness*
- *Part 3: Determination of tensile strength and elongation*
- *Part 4: Determination of tear resistance*
- *Part 6: Absorption*
- *Part 7: Determination of bending length*
- *Part 8: Determination of liquid strike-through time (simulated urine)*
- *Part 9: Evaluation of drapability including drape coefficient*
- *Part 10: Lint and other particles generation in the dry state*
- *Part 11: Run-off*
- *Part 12: Demand absorbency*
- *Part 13: Repeated liquid strike-through time*
- *Part 14: Coverstock wetback*
- *Part 15: Determination of air permeability*
- *Part 16: Determination of resistance to penetration by water (hydrostatic pressure)*
- *Part 17: Determination of water penetration (spray impact)*
- *Part 18: Determination of breaking strength and elongation of nonwoven materials using the grab tensile test*

STANDARDSISO.COM : Click to view the full PDF of ISO 9073-15:2007

# Textiles — Test methods for nonwovens —

## Part 15: Determination of air permeability

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 9073 specifies a method of measuring the flow of air passing perpendicularly through a given area of a fabric.

This test method applies to most nonwovens, such as laminates, which are treated or untreated. They may have either a low- or high-basis weight.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 139, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and/or testing*

ISO 186, *Paper and board — Sampling to determine average quality*

ISO 10012:2003, *Measurement management systems — Requirements for measurement processes and measuring equipment*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **air permeability**

velocity of an air flow passing perpendicularly through a test specimen under a prescribed air pressure differential over a certain time period

NOTE Air permeability is expressed in litres per square centimetre per second ( $l/cm^2 \cdot s$ ), or any other equivalent unit.

### 4 Principle

The flow of air passing perpendicularly through a given area of fabric is measured at a given pressure difference across the fabric test area over a given period of time.

## 5 Apparatus

- 5.1 Test head**, which provides a circular test area of either 20 cm<sup>2</sup>, 38,3 cm<sup>2</sup> or 50 cm<sup>2</sup>. The tolerance on the test heads or test areas shall not exceed 0,5 %.
- 5.2 Clamping system**, to secure test specimens, capable of holding the specimen tight enough to the test head without distortion, and ensuring the absence of edge leakage beneath the test specimen.
- 5.3 Vacuum pump**, for drawing a steady flow of air perpendicularly through the test area and for adjusting the airflow rate that preferably provides pressure differentials of between 100 Pa and 2 500 Pa (10 mm and 250 mm of water) between the two surfaces of the specimen. The test apparatus should be capable of providing a pressure drop of either 100 Pa, 125 Pa or 200 Pa across the specimen.
- 5.4 Pressure sensors or manometer**, connected to the test head underneath the test specimen, to measure the pressure drop across the test specimen in pascals or millimetres of water with an accuracy of  $\pm 2$  %.
- 5.5 Flowmeter or variable orifice**, which can measure air velocity through the test area, in l/cm<sup>2</sup>-s or other equivalent units of measure. The tolerance shall not exceed  $\pm 2$  %. Whatever unit of measure is used, it should be agreed upon by all parties and included in the test report.
- 5.6 Calibration plate**, or other means, made of durable material with a known preset air permeability number at the specified test pressure differential to verify the test equipment.
- 5.7 Means of calculating and displaying the required results.**
- 5.8 Cutting dies or templates**, to cut specimens to dimensions of 100 mm by 100 mm. Some types of equipment are constructed to allow testing of large pieces of nonwovens.

## 6 Procedure

- 6.1** Sample in accordance with ISO 186 and, unless otherwise specified, use 5 as the minimum specimen size.
- 6.2** Bring the specimens from the prevailing atmosphere to moisture equilibrium for testing in the standard atmosphere, as specified in ISO 139.
- 6.3** Cut five square specimens of 100 mm by 100 mm, if the apparatus is unable to handle large specimens.
- 6.4** Handle the test specimens carefully at the edges, to avoid changing the natural state of the test area of the nonwoven material.
- 6.5** Metrological confirmation of the test apparatus shall be in compliance with Clause 7, Figure 2 and Annex A of ISO 10012:2003. This instrument should be able to be calibrated and supplied with a fact sheet indicating that it meets ISO certification. This calibration certificate should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- 6.6** Place each test specimen on the test head of the test instrument, and seal the ring with adequate tension to prevent distortion or side leakage while the test is being performed.
- 6.7** Place coated test specimens with the coated side down (towards the low-pressure side) to minimize edge leakage.
- 6.8** Start the suction device.