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**Thermal insulation for building  
applications — Guidelines for selecting  
properties**

*Produits isolants thermiques pour le bâtiment — Lignes directrices pour  
le choix des caractéristiques*

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## 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 9774 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 10, *Cellular plastics*.

It cancels and replaces ISO/TR 9774:1990, which has been technically revised.

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# Thermal insulation for building applications — Guidelines for selecting properties

## 1 Scope

This International Standard gives guidelines to the standards writer in selecting thermal-insulation material properties for standards used in building applications.

These guidelines are not intended to prove the suitability of any particular product for any given application.

When standards are established or existing specifications are revised on the basis of these guidelines, the performance characteristics in these guidelines should be translated into product requirements (specified values) in the International Standard for a product or application, together with appropriate test methods, which must be fulfilled at the time of delivery, in order to ensure that the product provides the performance requirements in service. This relationship between specified values for the product and the service performance characteristic of the product in use can be different for different insulating products, depending on the characteristic of the material (e.g. ageing or time-dependent behaviour).

This International Standard applies only to prefabricated thermal-insulation products, i.e. manufactured mats and boards including any facings or coverings which may be present, although the basic characteristics may also be applied to other insulation products, e.g. *in situ* in systems or components, where appropriate.

The International Standard covers only thermal-insulation products for use in buildings within normal climatic conditions. It does not cover insulation products for building services, e.g. plumbing and heating, nor insulation products for industrial use.

Acoustic properties are not included in the properties given in this International Standard, although these may be additionally required for some fields of application.

## 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/TR 9165, *Practical thermal properties of building materials and products*

## 3 Applications of thermal-insulation products in buildings

A review of the most common applications of thermal-insulation products in different roof, wall, ceiling and foundation structures is given in Table 1. The applications are illustrated in more detail in Figure 1.

The purpose of Figure 1 is only to illustrate the applications for the various insulation products and to assist in relating the performance characteristics of the products to their application. The figure will also assist in determining requirements for other applications not listed.

The sketches are for illustration only and are not intended as construction drawings: for example, water vapour barriers and air infiltration barriers which may be necessary are not shown. Waterproofings in the roof

or foundation area are only shown to clarify the position of the insulation layer — in the area affected by precipitation or ground water or in the area protected against the penetration of water.

#### 4 Performance characteristics of products according to their application

Table 2 lists those properties — for different applications — which need to be considered when preparing standards and specifications for different products. The performance characteristics necessary for these properties to ensure serviceable and durable thermal insulation are explained and some values are suggested in Table 4.

Derived from Table 2, Table 3 gives specific properties which may be necessary only for certain applications.

For additional applications in building, not shown in Figure 1, the properties of the insulation products may be determined using the information in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

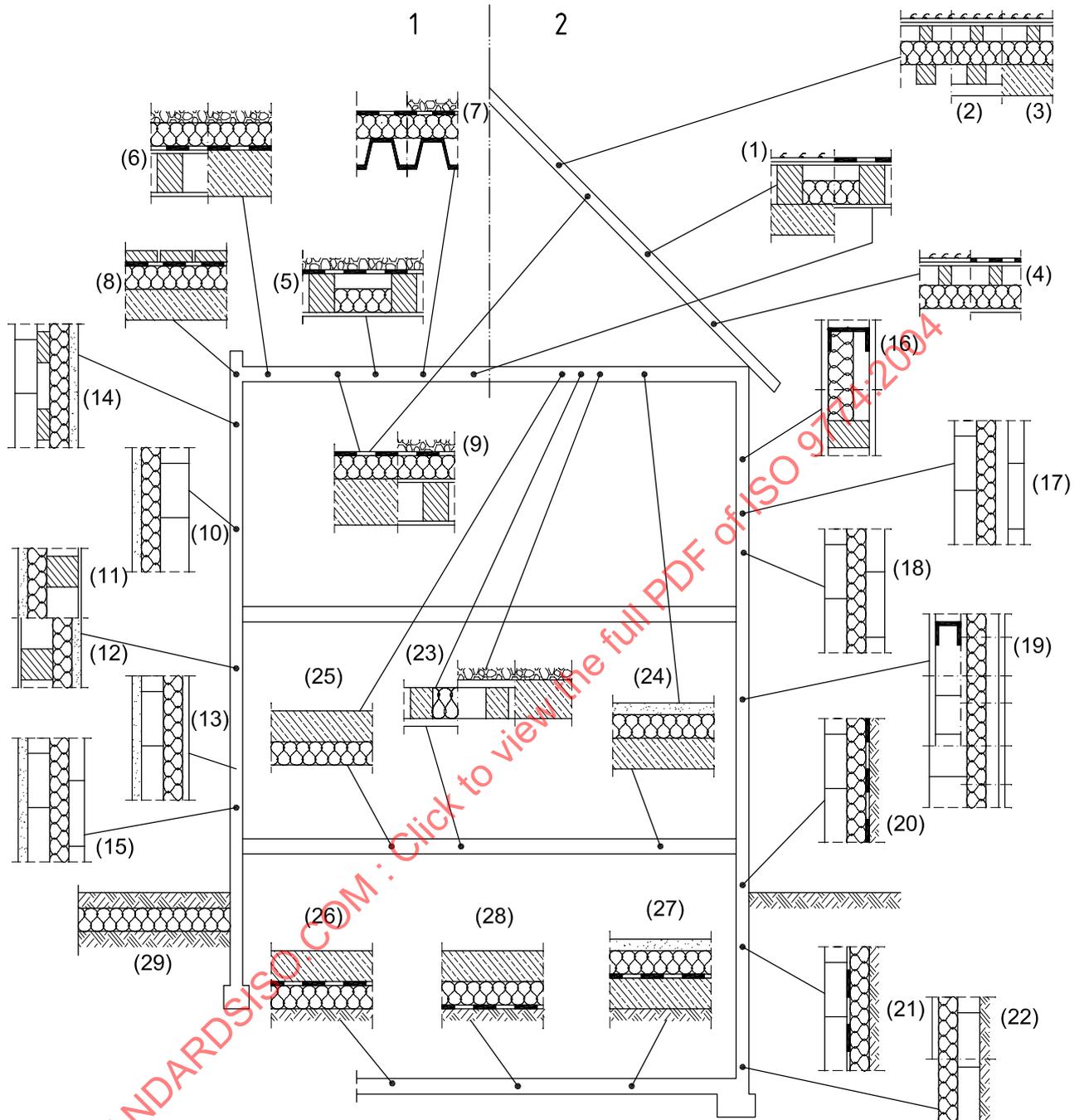
Insulation products used in two or more applications as indicated in Figure 1 shall have all relevant properties for all the intended applications.

For certain constructions, the knowledge of the water vapour transmission rate and the permeability to air is necessary. In such cases, the values for these shall be included in the product specification.

For some applications, additional performance criteria may be relevant, e.g. dimensional stability when in contact with solvents. In such cases, the product specification shall include these additional properties.

#### 5 Application categories

For simplicity, the various applications for insulating products shown in Figure 1 may be grouped into categories having common performance requirements. It is then the task of the insulation material standards or specifications to define these categories and the applications which are covered by the categories.



For key, see next page.

NOTE The numbers in parentheses are for use with Tables 1, 2 and 3.

**Key**

- 1 flat roof
- 2 pitched roof

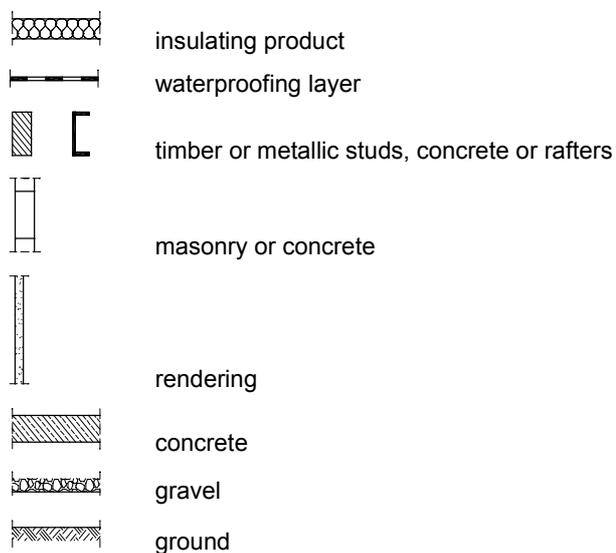


Figure 1 — Examples of the most common applications of thermal insulation products in buildings

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**Table 1 — Examples of the most common applications of thermal-insulation products in buildings**  
(for additional information, see sketches in Figure 1)

		Application	Sketch No.
Roof	Pitched roof	Unloaded insulation between rafters, fully supported	1
		Insulation separating rafters and outer covering	2
		Insulation separating supporting construction and outer covering	3
		Insulation beneath rafters	4
	Flat roof	Insulation between rafters or beams	5
		Inverted, insulation above roofing membrane including roof gardens and parking decks	6
		On steel deck, insulation beneath roofing membrane	7
		Accessible to light or heavy traffic or loads from roof garden (soil layer, plants, etc.) and parking decks (concrete pavers or slabs), insulation beneath roofing membrane	8
		Accessible only to maintenance personal, insulation beneath roofing membrane	9
Wall	Masonry or concrete wall, external insulation covered by rendering	10	
	Timber stud construction, outside insulation and rendering directly supported by the studs	11	
	Timber stud construction, insulation at the internal side with rendering	12	
	Masonry or concrete wall, fully supported internal insulation supporting light protective internal facing (e.g. gypsum board)	13	
	Masonry or concrete wall, internal insulation supporting light protecting facing, partly supported by studs	14	
	Masonry or concrete wall, internal insulation with heavy self-supported protective internal facing (e.g. tiles at roomside)	15	
	Timber or metal stud construction with boards covering, insulation between the studs	16	
	Cavity wall construction, insulation between the leaves, cavity ventilated	17	
	Cavity wall construction, cavity fully filled with insulation, outer leave not watertight	18	
	Timber or metal stud construction with boards covering, insulation supported by boards; or masonry or concrete wall, supporting the insulation with ventilated exterior covering	19	
	Wall under ground, external insulation behind waterproof membrane with mechanical protection	20	
	Wall under ground, external insulation with direct contact to the ground	21	
	Cellar or crawlspace hall, internal insulation with or without covering	22	
Ceiling/floor	Insulation over the supporting construction or between the beams	23	
	Insulation under load distributing flooring, fully supported	24	
	Insulation under the construction	25	
Foundation	Concrete, insulation under the slab with direct contact to the ground	26	
	Concrete, insulation supported by the slab, above waterproof membrane, beneath load distributing flooring	27	
	Concrete, insulation under the slab above waterproof membrane	28	
	Frost insulation in or against the ground	29	

**Table 2 — List of relevant properties to be considered according to the application of insulating material in buildings (0 indicates specification writer should consider this property)**

Application of insulation with reference to Figure 1 sketch No.		Roof									Wall								
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
a	Thermal resistance $R$ or thermal conductivity $\lambda$		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
b	Service temperature	Normal -40 °C/+60 °C (depending on covering)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
c		Elevated -40 °C/+90 °C						0	0										
d	Shape and dimensional stability	Under temperature action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
e		Under humidity action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
f		Under humidity and temperature action						0											
g	Behaviour under compression	A p p l i c a t i o n	No loading or compressive action	0		0	0					0		0		0	0	0	
h			Compression under uniform load other than service load		0	0								0	0		0		
i		S	Only by maintenance personnel					0	0	0									
k		l	Light traffic (persons)					0		0									
l		o	Heavy traffic	Cars					0		0								
m				Trucks					0		0								
n1	Lateral tensile strength under wind load			0					0		0								
n2	Flexural strength under wind load		0		0							0							
o	Shear strength										0	0	0	0	0				
p	Handling properties		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
q	Bending strength under man load							0											
r	Behaviour under influence of water	Not planned, short-term wetted	0	0				0	0	0	0	0						0	
s		Planned, long-term wetted					0												
t	Freeze/thaw resistance						0												
u	Influence on health and safety		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
v	Fire behaviour		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
w	Behaviour under biological attack		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
x	Compatibility with other materials		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
y	Water vapour transmission		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
z	Permeability to air		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Table 2 (continued)

Application of insulation with reference to Figure 1 sketch No.			Wall					Ceiling			Foundations				
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
a	Thermal resistance $R$ or thermal conductivity $\lambda$		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
b	Service temperature	Normal –40 °C/+60 °C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
c		Elevated –40 °C/+90 °C													
d	Shape and dimensional stability	Under temperature action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
e		Under humidity action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
f		Under humidity and temperature action													
g	Behaviour under compression	A p p l i c a t i o n	No loading or compressive action		0	0			0	0					
h			Compression under uniform load other than service load				0	0				0		0	
i			S e r v i c e	Only by maintenance personnel											
k				light traffic (persons)							0		0	0	0
l			l o a d	Cars									0		0
m				Heavy Traffic Trucks									0		0
n1	Lateral tensile strength under wind load			0											
n2	Flexural strength under wind load														
o	Shear strength														
p	Handling properties		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
q	Bending strength under man load														
r	Behaviour under influence of water	Not planned, short-term wetted				0						0			
s		Planned, long-term wetted		0	0		0				0		0		
t	Freeze/thaw resistance					0				0			0		
u	Influence on health and safety		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
v	Fire behaviour		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
w	Behaviour under biological attack		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
x	Compatibility with other materials		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
y	Water vapour transmission		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

**Table 3 — Specific properties for thermal insulation products, necessary only for certain applications**  
(0 indicates specification writer should consider this property)

Application of insulation with reference to Figure 1 sketch No.			Roof							Wall										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
c	Service temperature	Elevated -40 °C/+90 °C							0		0									
f	Shape and dimensional stability	Under humidity and temperature action						0												
g	Behaviour under compression	No loading or compressive action	0			0	0					0			0		0	0		
h			Compression under uniform load other than service load		0	0								0	0		0			
i		A p p l i c a t i o n  l o a d	S e r v i c e	Only by maintenance personnel					0	0		0								
k				Light traffic (persons)					0			0								
l			Heavy traffic	Cars						0		0								
m				Trucks						0		0								
n1	Lateral tensile strength under wind load				0				0		0	0								
n2	Flexural strength under wind load			0		0							0							
o	Shear strength											0	0	0	0	0				
q	Bending strength under man load								0											
r	Behaviour under influence of water	Not planned, short-term wetted	0	0					0	0	0	0	0					0		
s		Planned, long-term wetted						0												
t	Freeze/thaw resistance							0												

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Table 3 (continued)

Application of insulation with reference to Figure 1 sketch No.			Wall					Ceiling			Foundations					
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
c	Service temperature	Elevated -40 °C/+90 °C														
f	Shape and dimensional stability	Under humidity and temperature action														
g	Behaviour under compression	A p p l i c a t i o n	No loading or compressive action		0	0			0	0	0					
h			Compression under uniform load other than service load				0	0				0		0	0	
i			S	Only by maintenance personnel												
k			r	Light traffic (persons)								0	0	0		
l			v	Light traffic (persons)												
m	i	Light traffic (persons)														
	o	Light traffic (persons)														
	a	Light traffic (persons)														
	d	Light traffic (persons)														
	e	Light traffic (persons)														
	l	Light traffic (persons)														
	o	Light traffic (persons)														
	a	Light traffic (persons)														
	d	Light traffic (persons)														
n1	Lateral tensile strength under wind load			0												
n2	Flexural strength under wind load															
o	Shear strength															
q	Bending strength under man load															
r	Behaviour under influence of water	Not planned, short-term wetted				0							0			
s		Planned, long-term wetted		0	0		0				0			0		
t	Freeze/thaw resistance					0					0			0		

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Table 4 — Suggested performance characteristics for the properties listed in Tables 2 and 3

Property		Performance characteristics <sup>a</sup>		
a	Thermal resistance $R$ or thermal conductivity $\lambda$	Design values for $R$ or $\lambda$ (i.e. those which will be met throughout the intended service life of the product in the given application) should be stated at 10 °C or 23 °C (or 40 °C in tropical areas). Values required in specifications should be such that due allowance is made for any predictable changes caused by ageing, moisture uptake, etc. (see ISO/TR 9165).		
b	Service temperature (surface temperature)	Normal -40 °C/+60 °C	The insulation material should be such that, in the given range of temperatures, it performs properly in the intended way.	
c		Elevated -40 °C/+90 °C		
d	Shape and dimensional stability	Under temperature action	There should be e.g. no restriction or irreversible shape or dimensional change which detracts from satisfactory performance of the product in use.	
e		Under humidity action		
f		Under humidity and temperature action		
g	Behaviour under compression	No loading or compressive action	Not relevant.	
h		Compression under uniform load other than service load	Restricted deformation under long-term uniform load of 30 kN/m <sup>2</sup> .	
i		Application S e r v i c e l o a d	Only by maintenance personnel	Restricted deformation under long-term uniform load, e.g. 2 kN/m <sup>2</sup> ; less than 2 mm under short-time point load of e.g. 1 kN on area of 10 × 10 cm <sup>2</sup> of the product with roof covering in the temperature range.
k			Light traffic (persons)	Restricted deformation under long-term uniform and repeated load, e.g. 4 kN/m <sup>2</sup> , in the temperature range.
l			Heavy traffic	Cars
m	Trucks			Restricted deformation under long-term uniform and repeated load, e.g. 20 kN/m <sup>2</sup> , in the temperature range.
n1	Lateral tensile strength under wind load	Sufficient lateral tensile strength (cohesive strength) and bending strength between supports to cover wind load appropriate for height and location of buildings (e.g. 2,5 kN/m <sup>2</sup> for buildings up to 20 m height).		
n2	Flexural strength under wind load			
o	Shear strength	To withstand long-term load of covering, etc., of 30 mm thickness (shear load approx. 0,6/m <sup>2</sup> ).		
p	Handling properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Strength sufficient to withstand all stresses during transport and application, e.g. tensile strength &gt; 2 × weight of product or bending strength to bear 2 × weight of board.</li> <li>— Product should be such that it can be shaped and fitted to usual constructions with normal tools.</li> </ul>		
q	Bending strength under man load	Sufficient bending strength to perform properly under man load of 1 kN during construction and maintenance.		
r	Behaviour under influence of water	Not planned, short-term wetted	Limited water absorption and dimensional changes caused by a 24 h period of rain during construction such that the product is still suitable for its purpose.	
s		Planned, long-term wetted	Water absorption and dimensional changes of the product after long-term water immersion in the range of service temperatures should be limited so that the product is still suitable for its purpose.	
t	Freeze/thaw resistance	When wetted by direct water contact or penetration of water by diffusion, the product should withstand a sufficient number of freeze/thaw cycles.		
u	Influence on health and safety	Until international regulations are available, the product should be such that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— upon application with normal methods and precaution procedures</li> <li>— and during use of the buildings</li> </ul> national regulations, if any, are satisfied.		
v	Fire behaviour	Until international regulations are available, the material shall fulfill the national requirements.		
w	Behaviour under biological attack	The product should not sustain the growth of fungus and not support life of insects/vermin.		
x	Compatibility with other materials	The insulation product should be compatible with other building materials with which it is designed to come into contact.		
y	Water vapour transmission	No upper and lower limit; range of values to be supplied.		
z	Permeability to air	No upper and lower limit, range of values to be supplied.		

<sup>a</sup> For translation of performance characteristics into product specifications, see Clause 1.