

ISO

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

ISO RECOMMENDATION R 653

LONG SOLID-STEM THERMOMETERS
FOR PRECISION USE

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BRIEF HISTORY

The ISO Recommendation R653, *long solid-stem thermometers for precision use*, was drawn up by Technical Committee ISO/TC 48, *Laboratory glassware and related apparatus*, the Secretariat of which is held by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Work on this question by the Technical Committee began in 1954 and led, in 1959, to the adoption of a Draft ISO Recommendation.

In October 1963, this Draft ISO Recommendation (No. 671) was circulated to all the ISO Member Bodies for enquiry. It was approved, subject to a few modifications of an editorial nature, by the following Member Bodies:

Argentina	Greece	New Zealand
Australia	Hungary	Poland
Austria	India	Spain
Belgium	Israel	Switzerland
Chile	Italy	U.A.R.
Czechoslovakia	Japan	United Kingdom
France	Korea, Rep. of	U.S.S.R.
Germany	Netherlands	Yugoslavia

One Member Body opposed the approval of the Draft:

U.S.A.

The Draft ISO Recommendation was then submitted by correspondence to the ISO Council, which decided, in February 1968, to accept it as an ISO RECOMMENDATION.

LONG SOLID-STEM THERMOMETERS FOR PRECISION USE

INTRODUCTION

This ISO Recommendation is based on ISO Recommendation R 386, *Principles of construction and adjustment of liquid-in-glass laboratory thermometers*. It is one of four ISO Recommendations specifying requirements for basic series of long and short solid-stem and enclosed-scale thermometers, intended for general use for precision work.

For ease of reference, each thermometer of the series has been allocated a combination of letters and figures indicating the type of thermometer, the value of the smallest graduation interval and the upper and lower limits of the nominal scale range. The letter abbreviations given below have been selected, after taking into account the descriptions in various languages usually given to these types of thermometer:

STL	Long solid-stem thermometers,
STC	Short solid-stem thermometers,
EL	Long enclosed-scale thermometers,
EC	Short enclosed-scale thermometers.

1. SCOPE

This ISO Recommendation specifies requirements for a basic series of long solid-stem thermometers, not exceeding 375 mm in length, for general use in precision work.

NOTE. — There are in existence many different specifications for thermometers of the general types covered by this series. It is intended that this series should replace all such specifications, except those for which there is a well-established justification.

2. TYPE OF THERMOMETER

The thermometers should be of the liquid-in-glass solid-stem type, preferably with enamel back.

3. TEMPERATURE SCALE

The temperature scale to which the thermometers refer is the International Practical Scale of Temperature, adopted by the Conférence Générale des Poids et Mesures in 1960 as the revised edition of the International Temperature Scale of 1948.

4. IMMERSION

The thermometers should be adjusted for use at total immersion (i.e. the reading should be correct when the thermometer is immersed at least to the end of the liquid column in the medium whose temperature is required to be measured).

NOTE. — If thermometers divided to 0.1 or 0.2 degree Celsius are required to read correctly when the complete thermometer is immersed in the medium, this should be stated in the purchasing contract and the thermometer should be specially marked.

5. GLASS

The glass should be selected so that the finished thermometer shows the following characteristics:

- 5.1 Strain in the glass should be reduced to a level sufficient to minimize the possibility of fracture due to thermal or mechanical shock.
- 5.2 The bulb glass should be stabilized by suitable heat treatment to ensure that the accuracy requirements of section 10 can be met.
- 5.3 The errors in the finished thermometer resulting from the thermometric properties of the glass used for the bulb should be within the limits specified in section 10.

NOTE. — The maximum temperature up to which a glass may be used depends on the degree of stability required and is related to the viscosity of the glass at the temperature concerned.

- 5.4 The accuracy of the reading should not be impaired by devitrifying or clouding during manufacture.
- 5.5 The meniscus should be distorted as little as possible by defects or impurities in the glass.

6. LIQUID FILLING

Mercury should be used as liquid filling, except for thermometers with a scale extending below $-38\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. For temperatures down to $-55\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, the eutectic alloy of mercury and thallium (8.5% thallium by mass) should be used.

7. GAS FILLING

Only a dry, inert gas may be used as gas filling. It is essential that thermometers intended for use above $100\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ should be gas-filled. The pressure of the gas should be high enough to raise the boiling point of the mercury sufficiently to ensure that reliable readings are obtained over the complete thermometer scale.

8. CONSTRUCTION

8.1 Shape

The thermometers should be straight and their external cross-section approximately circular.

8.2 Top finish

The top of the thermometer should preferably be finished with a glass ring, the diameter of which should not exceed that of the stem. Alternatively, a plain finish may be provided, and this is preferred for thermometers STL/1/180/420 and STL/2/0/600.

8.3 Capillary tube

The inside of the capillary tube should be smooth. The cross-sectional area of the bore should not show variations from the average greater than 10%, and the bore should be wide enough to ensure that jumping of the meniscus does not exceed one-fifth of the graduation interval.

8.4 Expansion chamber (safety chamber)

A thermometer should not be heated above its top normal working temperature. To avoid serious results from momentary accidental overheating, a safety volume should be provided at the top of the stem.* The volume above the scale should be at least equivalent to that occupied by an interval of 80 degrees Celsius of the scale. If this volume takes the form of an expansion chamber, this should be pear-shaped with the hemisphere at the top, except for thermometers STL/1/180/420 and STL/2/0/600. For thermometers in which the upper limit of the scale is below room temperature, the lower end of the "pear" should be considerably elongated, to avoid risk of a break in the liquid column at room temperature.

* Overheating is liable to change the zero point of the thermometer, and a readjustment is therefore necessary, if it takes place.

8.5 Contraction chamber

A thermometer in which the lower limit of the main scale is above 0 °C should be provided with a contraction chamber to allow for the inclusion of an auxiliary scale (see Fig. 1, Type B, page 7). The contraction chamber should be elongated and as narrow as possible, to avoid risk of a break in the liquid column at room temperature.

8.6 Position of chambers

No enlargement of the bore should be so located as to produce any variation in the cross-section of the capillary tube in the scale portion, and in no case should such an enlargement be located less than 5 mm from the nearest graduation line. The distance from the top of the contraction chamber to the first graduation line of the scale immediately above it should be not less than 13 mm, except that for thermometers STL/0.5/190/310 and STL/1/180/420, this distance should be not less than 30 mm.

8.7 Dimensions

The dimensions of the thermometers should be as given in Table 1 below and Figure 1, page 7.

TABLE 1. — Dimensions (see also Fig. 1)

Dimensions in millimetres

Dimensions		Type A	Type B
Total length	max.	375	375
Distance from top of bulb (shoulder) to lower nominal limit of scale	min.	20	—
Distance from top of bulb (shoulder) to 0 °C graduation line	min.	—	20
Length of main scale (nominal limits)	min.	240	195
Distance from upper nominal limit of scale to top of thermometer	min.	25	25
Diameter of stem		5.5 to 8.0	5.5 to 8.0
External diameter of bulb	min.	5	5
	max.	not greater than that of stem	
Length of bulb to shoulder	min.	15	15
Distance from shoulder of bulb to lower end of parallel-sided capillary tube	max.	5	5
Distance from top of bulb funnel to lowest graduation line	min.	13	13
Distance from bottom of contraction chamber to highest graduation line on scale below it	min.	—	5
Distance from top of contraction chamber to lowest graduation line on scale above it	min.	—	13*
Distance from highest graduation line to bottom of expansion chamber	min.	10	10

* Except for thermometers STL/0.5/190/310 and STL/1/180/420, for which this dimension should be at least 30 mm.

9. GRADUATION AND FIGURING

9.1 The scales and graduation intervals of the thermometers should be as given in Table 2 below.

TABLE 2. — Graduation

Designation	Graduation interval	Main scale	Auxiliary scale *	Type (see Fig. 1)
	degrees Celsius	°C	°C	
STL/0.1/−25/+5	0.1	−25 to +5	—	A
STL/0.1/−5/+25	0.1	−5 to +25	—	A
STL/0.1/20/45	0.1	20 to 45	−0.5 to +0.5	B
STL/0.1/40/65	0.1	40 to 65	−0.5 to +0.5	B
STL/0.1/60/85	0.1	60 to 85	−0.5 to +0.5	B
STL/0.1/80/105	0.1	80 to 105	−0.5 to +0.5	B
STL/0.2/−55/+5**	0.2	−55 to +5	—	A
STL/0.2/−35/+25	0.2	−35 to +25	—	A
STL/0.2/−15/+45	0.2	−15 to +45	—	A
STL/0.2/35/85	0.2	35 to 85	−1 to +1	B
STL/0.2/75/125	0.2	75 to 125	−1 to +1	B
STL/0.2/115/165	0.2	115 to 165	−1 to +1	B
STL/0.2/155/205	0.2	155 to 205	−1 to +1	B
STL/0.5/−35/+115	0.5	−35 to +115	—	A
STL/0.5/90/210	0.5	90 to 210	−3 to +3	B
STL/0.5/190/310	0.5	190 to 310	−3 to +3	B
STL/1/−30/+270	1	−30 to +270	—	A
STL/1/180/420	1	180 to 420	−5 to +5	B
STL/2/0/600	2	0 to 600	—	A

* The auxiliary scale should be figured at the zero point.

** To be filled with mercury-thallium alloy.

- 9.2 The graduation lines should be clearly etched and of uniform thickness, which in no case should exceed 0.12 mm. The lines should be at right angles to the axis of the thermometer.
- 9.3 The left-hand ends of the lines should lie on an imaginary vertical line, when the thermometer is viewed from the front and in a vertical position. The shortest lines should not extend across the bore, but the longer lines should be extended to the right-hand side.
- 9.4 The length of the shortest graduation lines should be about 1 mm.
- 9.5 The arrangement of the graduation lines should be as follows:
- 9.5.1 For thermometers divided to 0.1 or 1 degree Celsius, each fifth line should be extended to the right-hand side; each tenth line should be still further extended, but this is optional if the line is figured (see drawings I and IV of Fig. 2).
- 9.5.2 For thermometers divided to 0.2 degree Celsius, each fifth line should be extended to the right-hand side, and each twenty-fifth line should be still further extended (see drawings II and V of Fig. 2).
- 9.5.3 For thermometers divided to 0.5 degree Celsius, alternate lines should be extended to the right-hand side, and each tenth line should be still further extended (see drawings III and VI of Fig. 2).
- 9.5.4 For thermometers divided to 2 degrees Celsius, each fifth line should be extended to the right-hand side, and each tenth line should be still further extended (see drawing VII of Fig. 2).
- 9.6 The figures may be placed either parallel or at right angles to the axis of the thermometer; they should preferably be placed in such a way that on extension of the line to which they refer would bisect them, but may alternatively be placed above that line. They may be placed either to the left or the right of the graduation lines, as preferred (see Fig. 2).

NOTE. — Figure 2 illustrates various types of graduation and figuring for the thermometers, but these are not intended to be obligatory.

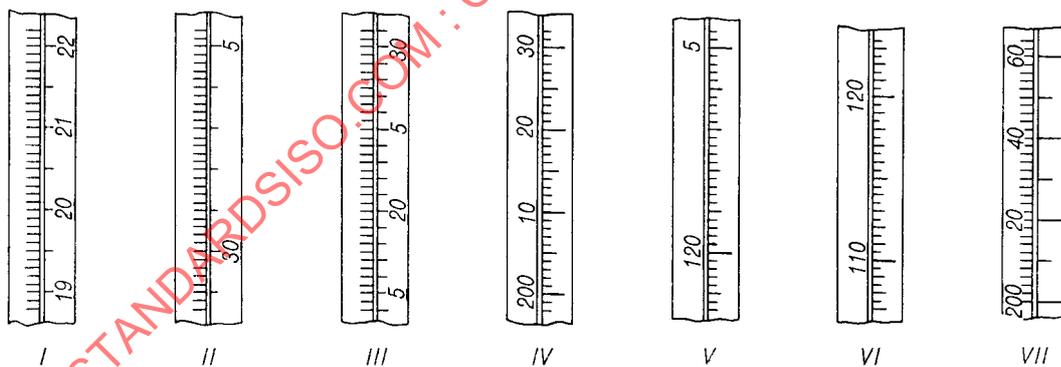


FIG. 2. — Alternative types of graduation and figuring

- 9.7 The graduation lines should be so positioned that the enamel backing in the stem provides a background for the figures, the scale, and the mercury column, when the latter is seen just beyond the left- or right-hand ends of the short lines.
- 9.8 The scale of the thermometer should be extended from two to five divisions beyond the nominal limits.
- 9.9 The pigment filling should remain in the graduation lines, figures and inscriptions under conditions specified by agreement between purchaser and vendor.

10. ACCURACY

10.1 Scale error

The scale error, when the thermometer is subjected to a pressure of 1 atm (normal atmosphere), should not be greater than the smallest scale division.

10.2 Interval error

The absolute value of the algebraic difference between the errors at any two points, which are not more than 50 divisions apart, should not be greater than one scale division.

10.3 Change in zero

When a thermometer is maintained over a period of 24 hours at the highest temperature of the scale, the change in the zero point, determined by the method described in Annex A, should not exceed 0.7 of a scale division, and the scale error should remain within the limit of one scale division specified in clause 10.1.

11. INSCRIPTIONS

The following inscriptions should be permanently and legibly marked on the thermometer:

- (a) *Unit of temperature.* Abbreviation of the name Celsius such as "C", or symbol "°C".
- (b) *Immersion.* An indication of the immersion is not required, except as stated in the Note to section 4.
- (c) *Gas filling,* if any. E.g. "nitrogen filled", "vacuous" or a suitable abbreviation.
- (d) *Bulb glass.* The bulb glass should preferably be identified either by means of a coloured stripe or stripes, or by an inscription on the thermometer.
- (e) *Identification number* (manufacturer's).
- (f) *Maker's or vendor's name or mark.*