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**Leather — Determination of flex
resistance —**

**Part 1:
Flexometer method**

Cuir — Détermination de la résistance à la flexion —

Partie 1: Méthode au flexomètre



Reference numbers
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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for the sampling and testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

This document was prepared by the Physical Testing Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUP Commission, IULTCS), in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 5402-1:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- an Introduction has been added;
- [Figures 1](#) and [3](#) (previously Figure 1 in ISO 5402-1:2011) have been added;
- [Clause 5](#) has been technically revised, in particular subclause [5.1.2](#) to allow the use of 2 types of upper clamps;
- [Clause 7](#) has been technically revised;
- a new bullet point c) has been added to the test report.

A list of all parts in the ISO 5402 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

This document describes a widely-used method with a flexing apparatus for determining the dry or wet flex resistance of leather and finishes applied to leather. The number of flexing cycles chosen depends on the end use of the leather and the expected performance. The leather specification normally defines the number of flex cycles that the leather is required to achieve without damage. In addition, the flexing process can be used as a pre-treatment for other test procedures.

This type of flexing apparatus was developed in 1963 and the flexing equipment described in this document is available commercially from a range of manufacturers globally. The robust equipment is typically used by tanneries and test laboratories for many decades. Over the years, small differences in the geometry of the upper clamp ([5.1.2](#)) develop. In ISO 5402-1:2017 a modified upper clamp design was introduced. In this document the upper clamp differences have been grouped together into 2 categories: Specification 1 (as in ISO 5402-1:2017) and Specification 2 (as in ISO 5402-1:2011).

Leather — Determination of flex resistance —

Part 1: Flexometer method

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for determining the dry or wet flex resistance of leather and finishes applied to leather. It is applicable to all types of flexible leather below 3,0 mm in thickness.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 2418, *Leather — Chemical, physical and mechanical and fastness tests — Sampling location*

ISO 2419, *Leather — Physical and mechanical tests — Sample preparation and conditioning*

ISO 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

4 Principle

A test piece is folded with the surface to be tested inwards and clamped in an upper movable clamp and with the surface to be tested outwards in a lower fixed clamp. Movement of the upper clamp causes a fold in the test piece to run along it. The test piece is examined periodically for damage.

5 Apparatus and reagents

5.1 Test machine

5.1.1 The test machine consists of a movable upper clamp, a fixed lower clamp and a counter as described in 5.1.2 to 5.1.4. Examples of suitable commercial suppliers of this machine are given in Annex A.