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**Rubber, vulcanized or  
thermoplastic — Estimation of life-  
time and maximum temperature of  
use**

*Caoutchouc vulcanisé ou thermoplastique — Estimation de la durée  
de vie et de la température maximale d'utilisation*



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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 document 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

ISO draws attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents). ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 45, *Rubber and rubber products*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Testing and analysis*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 11346:2014), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the accuracy via the use of a calculation method has been improved;
- the coefficient of determination and definition of a minimum value, which leads to significant improvement of regression curve accuracy and allows extrapolation to longer time periods has been introduced;
- the accuracy of test parameters has been increased;
- the formula to calculate the activation energy has been corrected;
- the threshold value (compression set) for seals has been introduced;
- different time-temperature collectives closer to real-world conditions have been introduced.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The rate of a chemical reaction normally increases with increasing temperature. By exposing test pieces to a series of elevated temperatures, the relation between the rate of degradative mechanisms and temperature can be deduced. Estimates can then be made by extrapolation, for a given temperature, of the degree of degradation after a given time or the time required to reach a given degree of degradation.

The reaction rate-temperature relationship can often be represented by the Arrhenius equation. The reaction rate at any given temperature is obtained from the change in the value of a selected property with exposure time at that temperature. The reaction rate can be represented by the time to a particular degree of degradation (threshold value) and can be the only practical measure if the property-temperature relation is complex.

The Arrhenius approach is only suitable for chemical degradation reactions and can give incorrect results for tests where physical (viscoelastic) changes cannot easily be separated from chemical changes.

An alternative approach for rubbers is to use the Williams Landel Ferry (WLF) equation. This equation performs a time-temperature transformation, and no assumptions are made as to the form of the property-time relation at any temperature. Hence, in principle, it can be applied to any physical property, including set and relaxation, or where the property/time relation is complex. Further explanation of the use of the WLF equation can be found in Reference [1].

NOTE The term equation is used for the relationships referred to here as formula.



# Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Estimation of life-time and maximum temperature of use

## 1 Scope

This document specifies the principles and procedures for estimating the thermal endurance of rubbers from the results of exposure to elevated temperatures for long periods.

Two approaches are specified (see Introduction):

- one using the Arrhenius equation;
- the other using the WLF equation.

In this document, the estimation of thermal endurance is based solely on the change in selected properties resulting from periods of exposure to elevated temperatures. The various properties of rubbers change at different rates on thermal ageing, hence comparison between different rubbers can only be made using the same properties.

## 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 188, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Accelerated ageing and heat resistance tests*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

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/>

### 3.1

#### life-time

time at which the material under test has reached the specified *threshold value* (3.4) for the property tested at the temperature of use or a time-temperature collective (respective to climate for outside application) closest to reality

#### 3.1.1

##### life-time at a given temperature

life-time at a given service temperature (e.g. 25 °C)

time obtained by extrapolation of the line to that temperature

#### 3.1.2

##### life-time at a given time-temperature collective

*life-time at a given temperature* (3.1.1) respectively at reference temperature divided by the *ageing factor* (3.2)