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Ergonomics of the thermal environment — Determination of metabolic rate

Ergonomie de l'environnement thermique — Détermination du métabolisme énergétique



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Foreword

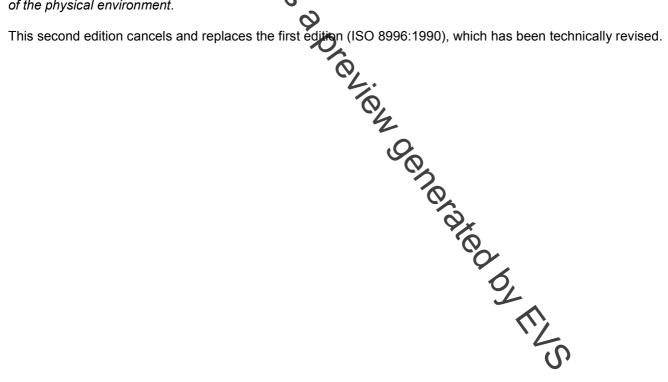
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Ergonomics of the thermal environment — Determination of metabolic rate

1 Scope

The metabolic rate, as a conversion of chemical into mechanical and thermal energy, measures the energetic cost of muscular load and gives a numerical index of activity. Metabolic rate is an important determinant of the comfort or the strain resulting from exposure to a thermal environment. In particular, in hot climates, the high levels of metabolic heat production associated with muscular work aggravate heat stress, as large amounts of heat need to be dissipated, no style by sweat evaporation.

This International Standard specifies different methods for the determination of metabolic rate in the context of ergonomics of the climatic working environment. It can also be used for other applications — for example, the assessment of working practices, the energetic cost of specific jobs or sport activities, the total cost of an activity, etc.

The estimations, tables and other data incoded in this International Standard concern an "average" individual:

- a man 30 years old weighing 70 kg and 1,55 m tall (body surface area 1,8 m²);
- a woman 30 years old weighing 60 kg and 1,70 m tall (body surface area 1,6 m²).

Users should make appropriate corrections when they are dealing with special populations including children, aged persons, people with physical disabilities, etc.

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 9886, Ergonomics — Evaluation of thermal strain by physiological measurements

ISO 15265, Ergonomics of the thermal environment — Risk assessment strategy for the prevention of stress or discomfort in thermal working conditions

3 Principle and accuracy

The mechanical efficiency of muscular work — called the "useful work", W — is low. In most types of industrial work, it is so small (a few percent) that it is assumed to be nil. This means that the total energy consumption while working is assumed equal to the heat production. For the purposes of this International Standard, the metabolic rate is assumed to be equal to the rate of heat production.

Table 1 lists the different approaches presented in this International Standard for determining the metabolic rate.

These approaches are structured following the philosophy exposed in ISO 15265 regarding the assessment of exposure. Four levels are considered here: