
**Thermoplastic elastomers —
Nomenclature and abbreviated terms**

Élastomères thermoplastiques — Nomenclature et termes abrégés



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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 on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 45, *Rubber and rubber products*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18064:2003), of which it constitutes a minor revision with the following changes:

- replacement of the term “abbreviation” with “abbreviated term” in Subclauses [6.3](#), [6.6](#) and [Annex A](#), and
- deletion of “TECEA” in [Annex A](#).

Introduction

Thermoplastic elastomers combine many of the attributes and features of both vulcanized thermoset rubber and thermoplastic materials. It is, therefore, important that any system of classification and nomenclature for this rapidly expanding polymer sector should be acceptable to both the rubber and plastics industries. Neither of the existing International Standards for the nomenclature and abbreviated terms for rubber (ISO 1629) and for plastics (ISO 1043-1) is suitable for this purpose. The system in this International Standard has been devised to avoid any conflict of interests or ambiguity, permit the use of existing terms in the construction of abbreviations for thermoplastic elastomers, and allow for future developments or expansion.

This International Standard uses established abbreviated terms. Its aim is both to prevent the occurrence of more than one abbreviated term for a given thermoplastic elastomer term, and to prevent the interpretation of more than one meaning for a given abbreviated term. For this reason, this International Standard makes appropriate use of the terms and symbols listed in ISO 1043-1 and ISO 1629.

Thermoplastic elastomers — Nomenclature and abbreviated terms

1 Scope

This International Standard establishes a nomenclature system for thermoplastic elastomers based on the chemical composition of the polymer or polymers involved. It defines symbols and abbreviated terms used to identify thermoplastic elastomers in industry, commerce, and government. It is not intended to conflict with, but to supplement, existing trade names and trademarks.

NOTE 1 The name of the thermoplastic elastomer should be used in technical papers and presentations followed by the abbreviated term used to designate the elastomer in this International Standard.

NOTE 2 [Annex A](#) gives thermoplastic-elastomer abbreviated terms that have been used in the past in materials standards, technical bulletins, textbooks, patents, and trade literature.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1043-1, *Plastics — Symbols and abbreviated terms — Part 1: Basic polymers and their special characteristics*

ISO 1629, *Rubber and latices — Nomenclature*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

thermoplastic elastomer

TPE

polymer or blend of polymers that has properties at its service temperature similar to those of vulcanized rubber but can be processed and reprocessed at elevated temperature like a thermoplastic

Note 1 to entry: Thermoplastic rubber is a commonly used term for thermoplastic elastomer.

4 Nomenclature system

4.1 The prefix TP is used to indicate that the abbreviated term is for a thermoplastic elastomer and shall be followed by a letter representing each category of thermoplastic elastomer, as detailed in [Clause 5](#).

4.2 The abbreviated term for each category of thermoplastic elastomer shall be followed, after a hyphen, by a combination of symbols to describe a specific member of each category, as detailed in [Clause 6](#).