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**Imaging materials — Colour reflection  
prints — Test method for ozone gas  
fading stability**

*Matériaux pour l'image — Tirages par réflexion en couleurs —  
Méthode d'essai de la stabilité de la décoloration à l'ozone*



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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](http://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](http://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 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 the following URL: [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 42, *Photography*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 18941:2011), which has been technically revised.

## Introduction

In image permanence testing, there are four environmental variables known to affect the stability of a photographic image: heat, light, moisture and air pollution, such as ozone<sup>[13][14][15][16][17][18][19][20][21][22][23][24][25][26]</sup>. Although natural ageing under “real-world” environmental levels of these variables is considered the only certain test for image permanence, the high stability of most modern photographic products makes testing under ambient conditions too lengthy a process to be of practical use. Thus, a widely used alternative to natural ageing is accelerated ageing, whereby a sample specimen is exposed to each environmental variable individually and at levels considerably greater than ambient, forcing degradation of the image by that single factor in a far shorter length of time.

This document covers the equipment, methods and procedures for generating a known ozone exposure and the subsequent measurement and quantification of the amount of change produced within a photographic image due to that exposure. It is important to note that if predictions of absolute product longevity are of concern to the experimenter, then further knowledge needs to be gained regarding the reciprocal behaviour of the test product under the experimental accelerated ozone conditions. See [Annex B](#) for more information on reciprocity.

Additionally, there are other known variables in an ozone test setup that can affect the rate at which an image will degrade in the presence of ozone. These include air flow over the sample, the nature of the chemical reaction that is occurring, the relative quantities of the reactants (ozone and colorant molecules) and the humidity content and the pH of the image recording layer. Each of these variables can affect the reciprocal response and needs to be understood for a clear analysis of the accelerated data.

In some products, such as most dyes on swellable inkjet media and in silver halide products in gelatine, the ozone reaction can be considered to be “diffusion-controlled,” whereby ozone first needs to permeate a protective surrounding matrix before coming in contact with a colorant molecule and reacting. Further, the reacted components then need to be desorbed and removed from the surface before fresh, unreacted molecules can again diffuse, adsorb and react. In this type of process, a simple increase in ozone concentration might or might not yield a proportional increase in reaction rate as diffusion, adsorption and, in some cases, desorption may be the dominant factor controlling the rate of reaction.

The relative quantities of the reactants (ozone and colorant) will also affect the rate of reaction and reciprocal behaviour. Under the assumed ambient conditions, a photographic image would undoubtedly contain a vast excess of colorant molecules relative to the local concentration of ozone molecules in the air. Here, ozone would likely be the limiting factor controlling the rate of reaction and, in the absence of other controlling factors, an increase in ozone concentration will produce a proportional increase in the rate of reaction. At some precise ozone concentration, the quantity of reactants would be equal and the reaction would proceed at a maximum rate. At this point, however, a further increase in ozone concentration would not accelerate the reaction rate, causing a failure in the reciprocal relationship that is required for converting accelerated data into predictions of ambient performance. For this reason, if product longevity predictions are to be made, this ozone concentration needs to be determined and never exceeded during testing.

This document has been primarily developed via testing with inkjet images on porous “instant-dry” photographic media, which have been shown to be susceptible to fading by oxidative gases present in polluted ambient air<sup>[13][14][19][20][21]</sup>. While many chemical species may be present in polluted air, it has been shown that most of the fade observed for current inkjet systems can be explained by oxidation by ozone<sup>[21][27][28]</sup>. Additionally, this method may reasonably be used for colour photographic images made with other digital and traditional “continuous-tone” photographic materials such as chromogenic silver halide, silver dye-bleach, dye transfer<sup>[26]</sup>, dye-diffusion-transfer “instant” and other similar systems. However, since these systems have, in general, been shown to be much less sensitive to oxidative degradation by ozone, relatively small levels of image degradation with this accelerated test method may not be realized within the typical duration of such a test for these imaging systems.

High levels of ozone, often found outside major metropolitan areas in summer months, together with high levels of humidity, will greatly accelerate the fade. Since ozone is a highly reactive gas, storage of photographs in any kind of gas-impermeable enclosure, such as framed behind glass or in an album,

will greatly reduce image degradation due to ozone. This method therefore relates primarily to the display of unprotected photographs.

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# Imaging materials — Colour reflection prints — Test method for ozone gas fading stability

## 1 Scope

This document describes the equipment, methods and procedures for generating a known ozone exposure and the subsequent measurement and quantification of the amount of change produced within both digitally printed hardcopy images and traditional analogue photographic colour print images due to that exposure.

The test method described in this document uses increased levels of ozone to achieve an accelerated test. If the principal “gas fading” mechanism for a system is not ozone, this method might not be suitable and might give misleading results as to resistance of the test image to polluted air.

## 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 5-3, *Photography and graphic technology — Density measurements — Part 3: Spectral conditions*

ISO 5-4, *Photography and graphic technology — Density measurements — Part 4: Geometric conditions for reflection density*

ISO 1431-3, *Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Resistance to ozone cracking — Part 3: Reference and alternative methods for determining the ozone concentration in laboratory test chambers*

ISO 13655, *Graphic technology — Spectral measurement and colorimetric computation for graphic arts images*

ISO 18913, *Imaging materials — Permanence — Vocabulary*

ISO 18944, *Imaging materials — Reflection colour photographic prints — Test print construction and measurement*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 18913 and the following apply.

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

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

### 3.1

#### **air/gas**

mixture of atmospheric air and ozone inside the test chamber

### 3.2

#### **volume turnover**

complete replacement of the *air/gas* (3.1) volume within the test chamber