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**Paper — Determination of transmittance  
by diffuse reflectance measurement**

*Papier — Détermination de la transmittance par le mesurage de la  
réflectance diffuse*



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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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.

ISO 22891 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*.

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## Introduction

This International Standard presents a method of determining the transmittance indirectly from reflectance factor data obtained by measurement under specified conditions. The equation used to calculate the transmittance is based on the Kubelka-Munk theory of light scattering and light absorption, and the equation can therefore only be strictly applied if measurements are made on materials which scatter light sufficiently to justify the application of this theory.

The reflectance factor depends on the conditions of measurement, and particularly on the spectral and geometric characteristics of the instrument used for its determination. This International Standard should therefore be read in conjunction with ISO 2469 and ISO 2471.

The transmittance value obtained by this method is a single value compatible with the opacity value determined according to ISO 2471, since all measurements are related to the luminance factor calculated with respect to the CIE illuminant C.

The method described in this International Standard gives only the total transmittance and does not distinguish between regular transmittance and diffuse transmittance. It does not provide a direct measure of the ability to distinguish, for example, written text through a transparent medium. This can be assessed only if the ratio of the regular to the diffuse transmittance is known.

It is emphasised that this method is for the determination not of the transmittance by direct measurement but of the transmittance obtained indirectly from reflectance factor measurements. Under ideal conditions they are the same, but in practice it may be necessary to emphasise the difference.

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# Paper — Determination of transmittance by diffuse reflectance measurement

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the calculation of transmittance based upon diffuse reflectance measurements.

The use of the method is restricted to white and near-white translucent papers (see 3.9). If it is necessary to determine the transmittance of papers which contain fluorescent whitening agents, the fluorescence emission is eliminated using the prescribed UV cut-off filter.

NOTE This means that, although this International Standard refers to ISO 2469 which permits the use of both filter colorimeters and abridged spectrophotometers, a filter colorimeter with no means of eliminating the emission of fluorescence is not suitable for this type of measurement if fluorescent whitening agents are present.

## 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 186, *Paper and board — Sampling to determine average quality*

ISO 2469, *Paper, board and pulps — Measurement of diffuse radiance factor*

ASTM E308-06, *Standard Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1

#### reflectance factor

$R$

ratio of the radiation reflected by a body to that reflected by the perfect reflecting diffuser under the same conditions of illumination and detection

NOTE This ratio is often expressed as a percentage.

### 3.2

#### luminance factor (C)

$R_y$

reflectance factor weighted with reference to the colour matching function  $\bar{y}(\lambda)$  of the CIE 1931(2°) Standard Observer and the CIE illuminant C

NOTE 1 This property corresponds to the attribute of visual perception of the luminance of the reflecting surface. The strict definition refers to the visual efficient function  $V(\lambda)$ . Since this function is identical with the  $\bar{y}(\lambda)$  function, the latter is