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## **Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A01: General principles of testing**

*Textiles — Essais de solidité des teintures —  
Partie A01: Principes généraux pour effectuer les essais*



Reference number  
ISO 105-A01 : 1989 (E)

## 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council. They are approved in accordance with ISO procedures requiring at least 75 % approval by the member bodies voting.

International Standard ISO 105-A01 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 105-A01 : 1987), of which it constitutes a technical revision.

ISO 105 was previously published in 13 "parts", each designated by a letter (e.g. "Part A"), with publication dates between 1978 and 1985. Each part contained a series of "sections", each designated by the respective part letter and by a two-digit serial number (e.g. "Section A01"). These sections are now being republished as separate documents, themselves designated "parts" but retaining their earlier alphanumeric designations.

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# Textiles — Tests for colour fastness —

## Part A01:

### General principles of testing

#### 1 Scope

**1.1** This part of ISO 105 provides general information about the methods for testing colour fastness of textiles for the guidance of users. The uses and the limitations of the methods are pointed out, several terms are defined, an outline of the form of the methods is given and the contents of the clauses constituting the methods are discussed. Procedures common to a number of the methods are discussed briefly.

**1.2** By **colour fastness** is meant the resistance of the colour of textiles to the different agencies to which these materials may be exposed during manufacture and their subsequent use. The change of colour and staining of undyed adjacent fabrics are assessed as fastness ratings. Other visible changes of the textile material under test, for example surface effects, change in gloss or shrinkage, should be considered as separate properties and reported as such. Any loose fibres from the specimen adhering to the adjacent fabrics shall be removed before assessment of staining.

**1.3** The methods may be used not only for assessing colour fastness of textiles but also for assessing colour fastness of dyes. When a method is so used, the dye is applied to the textile in specified depths of colour by stated procedures and the material is then tested in the usual way.

**1.4** For the most part, individual methods are concerned with colour fastness to a single agency, as the agencies of interest in a particular case, and the order of application, will generally vary. It is recognized that experience and future developments in practice may justify procedures in which two or more agencies are combined.

**1.5** The conditions in the tests have been chosen to correspond closely to treatments usually employed in manufacture and to conditions of ordinary use. At the same time, they have been kept as simple and reproducible as possible. As it cannot be hoped that the tests will duplicate all the conditions under which textiles are processed or used, the fastness ratings should be interpreted according to the particular needs of each user. They provide, however, a common basis for testing and reporting colour fastness.

#### 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 105. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 105 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 105-A02 : 1987, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A02 : Grey scale for assessing change in colour.*

ISO 105-A03 : 1987, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A03 : Grey scale for assessing staining.*

ISO 105-B01 : 1989, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B01 : Colour fastness to light : Daylight.*

ISO 105-B02 : 1988, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B02 : Colour fastness to artificial light : Xenon arc fading lamp test.*

ISO 105-B03 : 1988, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B03 : Colour fastness to weathering : Outdoor exposure.*

ISO 105-B04 : 1988, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B04 : Colour fastness to weathering : Xenon arc.*

ISO 105-B06 : 1989, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part B06 : Colour fastness to artificial light or high temperatures — Xenon arc fading lamp test.*

ISO 139 : 1973, *Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing.*

ISO 3696 : 1987, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods.*

#### 3 General principle

A specimen of the textile to be tested, with adjacent fabric attached if staining is to be assessed, is subjected to the action of the agency in question. The extent of any change in colour and that of any staining of the adjacent fabric are assessed and expressed in fastness numbers.

## 4 Outline of form of the methods

The headings of the principal clauses of the individual test methods are as follows:

- "Introduction"
- "Scope"
- "Normative references"
- "Principle"
- "Apparatus and reagents" (or "Reference materials and apparatus")
- "Test specimen"
- "Procedure"
- "Test report"

## 5 The "Scope" clause

**5.1** Under this heading in each method are given the intended use of the method, its limitations and the definitions of any terms that may not be clear.

**5.2** Details of the principal natural and man-made fibres which can be submitted to each test are given. These lists are by no means exclusive, and any dyed or printed material not mentioned in the method (whether manufactured wholly from one fibre or from a mixture of fibres) can be submitted to test. In such cases it is necessary to verify and note whether the procedure is likely to cause any alteration in the material under test. This applies particularly to all man-made fibres (acrylic, pure or copolymer; polyvinyl, pure or copolymer; polyester, etc.) currently being developed, of which any list is always likely to be incomplete.

## 6 The "Normative references" clause

Under this heading in each method is given a complete list of other documents which are indispensable for the application of the method.

## 7 The "Principle" clause

Under this heading in each method is given a concise statement of the principle of the method to enable the user to decide whether the method is the one that he is seeking.

## 8 The "Apparatus and reagents" (or "Reference materials and apparatus") clause

**8.1** Under this heading in each method the equipment and supplies required for the test are described.

NOTE — For information on the sources of apparatus and reference materials for use in the various parts of ISO 105, apply to the following addresses, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply:

British Standards Institution  
3 York Street  
Manchester M2 2AT  
United Kingdom

and

AATCC  
1 Davis Drive  
P.O. Box 12215  
Research Triangle Park  
North Carolina 27709  
USA

**8.2 Test solutions** shall be prepared using grade 3 water complying with ISO 3696. The concentrations of baths are given in millilitres per litre (ml/l) or grams per litre (g/l). The qualities of chemicals to be used are given in each method. For crystalline substances the amount of water of crystallization is given and, for liquids, the relative density at 20 °C.

**8.3** By **adjacent fabric** is meant a small piece of undyed cloth of a single or of several generic kinds of fibres to be used during the test for assessing staining.

**8.3.1 Single-fibre adjacent fabrics**, if not otherwise specified, should be of plain weave, medium mass per unit area and free from chemically damaged fibres, finishes, residual chemicals, dyes or fluorescent whitening agents.

**8.3.2** Properties and preparation of the single-fibre adjacent fabrics are given under the different adjacent fabric specifications.

**8.3.3 Multifibre adjacent fabrics** are made of yarns of various generic kinds of fibres each of which forms a stripe of at least 1,5 cm width providing even thickness of the fabric. The staining properties of generic fibres used in single-fibre and multifibre adjacent fabrics shall be identical.

**8.4** By **standard of fading** is meant a dyed fabric of similar appearance as the test control (see 9.4), showing the colour to which the test control should fade during the test. Test controls are produced by a central organization and are made available through national standards bodies.

## 8.5 Selection and use of adjacent fabrics

Two alternative procedures for selection of adjacent fabrics are provided, and details of the type of adjacent fabrics used shall be given in the test report, including dimensions, since there may be differences in test results when multifibre adjacent fabrics are used instead of single-fibre adjacent fabrics.

### 8.5.1 Types of adjacent fabric

Either of the following procedures may be used.

- a) Two single-fibre adjacent fabrics. The first adjacent fabric shall be of the same generic kind of fibre as the material under test or that predominating in the case of blends. The second adjacent fabric shall be that indicated in the individual test or as otherwise specified.

b) One multifibre adjacent fabric. In this case no other adjacent fabric may be present as this can affect the degree of staining of the multifibre fabric.

### 8.5.2 Dimensions and use of adjacent fabrics

**8.5.2.1** When single-fibre adjacent fabrics are used, these shall be of the same dimensions as the specimen under test (normally 40 mm × 100 mm). As a general principle, each surface of the specimen is completely covered by each of the adjacent fabrics. Special requirements are outlined in 9.6.

**8.5.2.2** When a multifibre adjacent fabric is used, this shall be of the same dimensions as the specimen under test (normally 40 mm × 100 mm). As a general principle, it shall cover the face side only of the specimen. Special requirements are given in 9.6.

## 9 The "Test specimen" clause

**9.1** Under this heading in each method are given the particular requirements for the specimen to be used in the test.

Definitions of the following terms are given below:

- "specimen";
- "composite specimen";
- "test control specimen".

General directions for their preparation are also given below.

**9.2** By **specimen** is meant a small piece of textile material that is to be submitted to the test; it is usually taken from a larger sample representing a lot of the dyed or printed textile material.

**9.3** By **composite specimen** is meant the specimen together with one or two selected adjacent fabrics used for assessing staining.

**9.4** By **test-control specimen** is meant a specimen of known extent of colour change and/or staining during the test used to ensure that the test is conducted correctly. Details of the preparation of the test-control specimens are given as appropriate in each individual test method. The test-control specimen is treated in parallel with the test specimen under the same conditions, as prescribed in the individual test method.

## 9.5 Preparation of specimens

### 9.5.1 Fabrics

Specimens of specified dimensions are cut from woven and knitted fabrics, felts and other piece goods. The fabrics shall be free from creases, so that the treatment they receive may result in uniform action over the whole area.

### 9.5.2 Yarns

Yarns to be tested may be knitted into fabric, from which a specimen is taken. They may also be wound parallel, for example on a U-shaped wire frame. For dry treatments, close

winding on a card is recommended. For certain wet treatments without accompanying undyed adjacent material, hanks of yarn tied at both ends may be used.

The method of preparation used shall be specified in the test report.

### 9.5.3 Loose fibres

Loose fibres may be tested after combing and compressing into a sheet.

## 9.6 Preparation of composite specimens

**9.6.1** Sewing threads shall be free from fluorescent brightening agents.

**9.6.2** Composite specimens using two single-fibre adjacents:

**9.6.2.1** If the specimen is fabric, it is normally placed between the two adjacent fabrics and sewn along one short side, although for certain methods it is sewn along all four sides.

**9.6.2.2** When testing unions in which one fibre predominates on one side and another fibre on the other side, the specimen shall be placed between the adjacent fabrics so that the predominant fibre is next to the adjacent fabric of the same generic kind of fibre.

**9.6.2.3** If the specimen is a printed fabric, the composite specimen is arranged in such a manner that the face is in contact with half of each of the two adjacent fabrics; depending on the design of the print, more than one composite specimen may be required.

**9.6.2.4** If the specimen is yarn or loose fibre, an amount approximately equal to one-half that of the combined mass of the adjacent fabrics is evenly spread over one adjacent fabric, covered with the other, and sewn around all four sides with additional stitching at about 10 mm intervals; in the case of yarn specimens, this stitching shall be at right angles to the direction of the yarns.

**9.6.3** Composite specimens using one multifibre adjacent:

**9.6.3.1** If the specimen is fabric, it is placed with its face in contact with the multifibre fabric and sewn along one short side.

**9.6.3.2** When testing unions in which one fibre predominates on one side and another fibre on the other side, two separate tests shall be carried out by making two composite specimens so that each side is in contact with the multifibre adjacent fabric.

**9.6.3.3** In the case of multicoloured or printed fabrics, all the different colours of the design shall be tested in contact with all six components of the multifibre adjacent fabric strip. It may be necessary to carry out more than one test.

**9.6.3.4** If the specimen is yarn or loose fibre, an amount approximately equal to that of the mass of the multifibre adjacent

fabric is evenly spread over the multifibre adjacent fabric, yarns being laid at right angles to the individual strips. This is then covered with an equal size piece of a lightweight, non-staining quality of polypropylene fabric, stitched along all four sides, and stitched in addition between each pair of adjacent strips comprising the multifibre adjacent fabric.

## 10 Conditioning

**10.1** Special conditioning of specimens and of adjacent fabrics used with them is not usually necessary, but they shall be neither moist nor very dry.

**10.2** For tests in which differences in moisture content of the specimen and adjacent fabric will influence the results, all fabrics shall be in a standard condition, i.e. in moisture equilibrium with air having a temperature of  $20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and relative humidity of  $65\% \pm 2\%$  R.H. (see ISO 139).

NOTE — In tropical and subtropical countries, material may be regarded as being in the standard condition when it is in moisture equilibrium with air having a temperature of  $27\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and relative humidity of  $65\% \pm 2\%$  R.H. (see ISO 139).

## 11 The "Procedure" clause

**11.1** Under this heading in each method are described the series of operations through which the specimen is taken, including the assessment of colour change and staining of adjacent fabrics. The use of test-control specimens is specified in some of the methods to ensure that the tests have been conducted correctly.

**11.2 Tolerances** are given for numerical values of dimensions, temperatures and times that are considered critical. If no tolerance is given, the precision of the measurements need be only that to be expected when using common instruments and reasonable care. The precision is further indicated by the number of significant figures in the values given.

**11.3** By **liquor ratio** is meant the ratio of the volume of the liquor used in the treatment, expressed in millilitres (ml), to the mass of the specimen or the composite specimen (specimen plus adjacent fabric), expressed in grams (g).

**11.4 Wetting out.** When wetting specimens, special care shall be taken to ensure that they are uniformly saturated. In particular, when wool or materials containing wool are wetted out, it is necessary for them to be immersed in grade 3 water complying with ISO 3696 and either thoroughly kneaded by hand or with a mechanical device, for example the flattened end of a glass rod, or placed in a suitable flask, evacuated using a water suction pump or similar apparatus.

**11.5 Spotting.** For tests in which the material is spotted with water or a reagent and the surface rubbed with a glass rod to ensure penetration, care shall be taken not to raise the surface of the material, otherwise there will be a change in the reflection of light and hence in appearance.

**11.6 Wetting to 100 % increase in mass.** When the material is to be wetted to contain its own mass of liquor, it

may be saturated with the liquor and then drawn between two rubber rollers or squeezed by means of a rubber roller on a glass plate, or centrifuged. Wringing by hand does not give uniform wetting.

**11.7 Temperatures** are given in degrees Celsius ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), usually with a tolerance of  $\pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . For reliable results, continuous temperature control is essential.

## 12 Fastness of dyes

**12.1** As the fastness of a dye depends on the depth of colour, it is necessary to specify standard depths which are to be used by dye manufacturers. A main range of standard depths, referred to as 1/1 standard depths, is recommended in 18 hues and is to be used whenever possible.

**12.2** Supplementary ranges twice as deep (referred to as 2/1 standard depths), and weaker (referred to as 1/3, 1/6, 1/12 and 1/25 standard depths), are also recommended and are to be used whenever additional fastness data are required.

**12.3** In the case of navy blues and blacks, only two standard depths are recommended, namely:

Navy blue/light (N/L)	Black/light (B/L)
Navy blue/dark (N/Dk)	Black/dark (B/Dk)

Whenever possible, dye manufacturers' pattern cards shall provide fastness ratings at both depths.

**12.4** These standard depths shall be prepared on a matt material (wool gabardine or printed card). Master sets of the standard depths are filed in certain countries for reference.

**12.5** These standard depths are not subjected to any fastness test, but merely indicate at what depth of colour the fastness figures of dye manufacturers have been obtained, irrespective of dye or fibre.

## 13 Assessment of colour fastness

**13.1** Colour fastness is assessed separately with respect to change in colour of the specimen in the test and with respect to staining of adjacent fabrics. Specimens and adjacent fabrics shall have cooled after drying and shall have regained their normal moisture content before the assessment, except when otherwise specified.

**13.2 Colour fastness with respect to change in colour.** The change which occurs in a test may be a change in depth of colour (i.e. saturation), a change in hue, a change in brightness, or any combination of these.

Regardless of the character of the change, the assessment is based upon the magnitude of the visual contrast between the specimen after the test and a specimen of the original material. This contrast is compared visually with the contrast represented by the five or nine pairs of colour chips (or swatches of fabric), ranging in both cases from 5, which illustrates no