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**Textiles — Tests for colour fastness —**

Part C06:

**Colour fastness to domestic and  
commercial laundering**

*Textiles — Essais de solidité des coloris —*

*Partie C06: Solidité des coloris aux lavages domestiques et industriels*



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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 105-C06 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Tests for coloured textiles and colorants*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 105-C06:1994). It also incorporates ISO 105-C06:1994/Cor. 1:2002 and ISO 105-C06:1994/Cor. 2:2002. Clause 4 has been technically revised to include the use of instrumental measurement and correction to AATCC detergent formula and dated references have been removed from Clause 2.

ISO 105 consists of many parts designated by a part letter and a two-digit serial number (e.g. A01), under the general title *Textiles — Test for colour fastness*. A complete list of these parts is given in ISO 105-A01.

# Textiles — Tests for colour fastness —

## Part C06:

## Colour fastness to domestic and commercial laundering

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 105 specifies methods intended for determining the resistance of the colour of textiles of all kinds and in all forms to domestic or commercial laundering procedures used for normal household articles using a reference detergent. Industrial and hospital articles may be subjected to special laundering procedures which may be more severe in some aspects.

The colour loss and staining resulting from desorption and/or abrasive action in one single (S) test closely approximates to one commercial or domestic laundering. The results of one multiple (M) test may in some cases be approximated by the results of up to five domestic or commercial laundings at temperatures not exceeding 70 °C. The M tests are more severe than the S tests because of an increase in mechanical action.

These methods do not reflect the effect of optical brighteners present in commercial washing products.

These methods are designed for the detergents and bleach systems given. Other detergents and bleach systems may require different conditions and levels of ingredients.

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

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

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

ISO 105-A04, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A04: Method for the instrumental assessment of the degree of staining of adjacent fabrics*

ISO 105-A05, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part A05: Instrumental assessment of change in colour for determination of grey scale rating*

ISO 105-F01, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F01: Specification for wool adjacent fabric*

ISO 105-F02, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F02: Specification for cotton and viscose adjacent fabrics*

ISO 105-F03, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F03: Specification for polyamide adjacent fabric*

ISO 105-F04, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F04: Specification for polyester adjacent fabric*

ISO 105-F05, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F05: Specification for acrylic adjacent fabric*

ISO 105-F06, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F06: Specification for silk adjacent fabric*

ISO 105-F07, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F07: Specification for secondary acetate adjacent fabric*

ISO 105-F10, *Textiles — Tests for colour fastness — Part F10: Specification for adjacent fabric: Multifibre*

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

### 3 Principle

A specimen of the textile in contact with specified adjacent fabric or fabrics is laundered, rinsed and dried. Specimens are laundered under appropriate conditions of temperature, alkalinity, bleaching and abrasive action such that the result is obtained in a conveniently short time. The abrasive action is accomplished by the use of a low liquor ratio and an appropriate number of steel balls. The change in colour of the specimen and the staining of the adjacent fabric or fabrics are assessed by comparison with the grey scales or instrumentally.

### 4 Apparatus, materials and reagents

**4.1 Suitable mechanical device**, consisting of a water bath containing a rotatable shaft which supports, radially, stainless steel containers with a diameter of  $(75 \pm 5)$  mm and a height of  $(125 \pm 10)$  mm, of capacity  $(550 \pm 50)$  ml, the bottom of the containers being  $(45 \pm 10)$  mm from the centre of the shaft.

The shaft/container assembly is rotated at a frequency of  $(40 \pm 2) \text{ min}^{-1}$ . The temperature of the water bath is thermostatically controlled to maintain the test solution at the prescribed temperature  $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ .

Other mechanical devices may be used for this test, provided that the results are identical to those obtained using the apparatus described.

**4.2 Non-corrodible (stainless) steel balls**,  $\approx 6$  mm in diameter.

**4.3 Adjacent fabrics** (see ISO 105-A01). Use either 4.3.1 or 4.3.2.

NOTE Supplies of spun acetate may be limited due to decreased manufacturing.

**4.3.1 A multifibre adjacent fabric**, complying with ISO 105-F10, appropriate to the temperature used:

- a multifibre adjacent fabric [DW<sup>1)</sup>] containing wool and acetate (tests at  $40^\circ\text{C}$  and  $50^\circ\text{C}$  and in certain cases, to be indicated in the test report, also at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ );
- a multifibre adjacent fabric [TV<sup>2)</sup>] not containing wool and acetate (in certain tests at  $60^\circ\text{C}$ , and in all tests at  $70^\circ\text{C}$  and  $95^\circ\text{C}$ ).

Consideration should be made in the use of multifibre with wool as the combination of temperature and sodium perborate at  $60^\circ\text{C}$  might be harmful to the wool.

**4.3.2 Two single-fibre adjacent fabrics**, complying with the relevant ISO 105-F01 to F07 standards. One of the adjacent fabrics shall be made of the same kind of fibre as that of the textile to be tested, or that predominating in the case of blends, and the second piece made of the fibre as indicated in Table 1 or, in the case of blends, of the kind of fibre second in order of predominance, or as otherwise specified.

1) DW = diacetate is the first yarn; wool is the second yarn.

2) TV = triacetate and viscose.

Table 1 — Pairs of adjacent fabrics

If first piece is:	Second piece to be:	
	For tests A and B	For tests C, D and E
Cotton	Wool	Viscose
Wool	Cotton	—
Silk	Cotton	—
Viscose	Wool	Cotton
Acetate	Viscose	Viscose
Polyamide	Wool or Cotton	Cotton
Polyester	Wool or Cotton	Cotton
Acrylic	Wool or Cotton	Cotton

**4.3.3** If required, a **non-dyeable fabric** (e.g. polypropylene).

**4.4 Detergent**, without optical brightener (WOB).

**4.4.1 Detergent solution.**

A minimum volume of 1 litre of detergent solution shall be prepared, because of possible lack of homogeneity of the detergent powder.

Either of the detergents in 4.4.2 or 4.4.3 may be used.

**4.4.2 AATCC<sup>3)</sup> 1993 Standard Reference Detergent WOB.**

The detergent is low-sudsing; the surfactants composing the detergent are anionic, with a small proportion of non-ionic, and are biodegradable. Properties and composition are given in Table 2.

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3) American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), PO Box 12215, 1 Davis Drive, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709 USA. Telephone: +1-919-549-8141; Fax: +1-919-549-8933; <http://www.aatcc.org/>.

Table 2 — AATCC 1993 Standard Reference Detergent WOB

Composition	Mass fraction %
Linear alkylbenzene sulfonate sodium salt <sup>a</sup>	18
Sodium aluminosilicate solids	25
Sodium carbonate	18
Sodium silicate solids <sup>b</sup>	0,50
Sodium sulfate	22,13
Polyethylene glycol <sup>c</sup>	2,76
Sodium polyacrylate	3,50
Silicone, suds suppressor	0,04
Moisture	10
Miscellaneous (unreacted in surfactant stocks)	0,07
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
<sup>a</sup> C11.8LAS, introduced as Stepan's Calsoft L-50-12.	
<sup>b</sup> SiO <sub>2</sub> /Na <sub>2</sub> O = 1,6.	
<sup>c</sup> 2 % introduced via base granulates and 0,76 % introduced via a suds suppressor admixture.	

#### 4.4.3 ECE<sup>4)</sup> Detergent with Phosphates.

In countries where perborates are used in laundering, the ECE Reference Detergent for colour fastness testing, without optical brightener, may be used. The nominal composition of the ECE Detergent with Phosphates is given in Table 3.

NOTE Information on the availability of this detergent can be obtained from national standards organizations.

4) European Colourfastness Establishment (ECE), Gartenstrasse 5, D-14169 Berlin, Germany.



Table 3 — ECE Detergent with Phosphates

Composition	Mass fraction %
Linear sodium alkylbenzenesulfonate (mean length of alkane chain C <sub>11,5</sub> )	8,0 ± 0,02
Ethoxylated tallow alcohol (14 EO)	2,9 ± 0,02
Sodium soap, chain length C <sub>12</sub> – C <sub>16</sub> : 13 % to 26 % C <sub>18</sub> – C <sub>22</sub> : 74 % to 87 %	3,5 ± 0,02
Sodium tripolyphosphate	43,7 ± 0,02
Sodium silicate (SiO <sub>2</sub> :Na <sub>2</sub> O = 3,3:1)	7,5 ± 0,02
Magnesium silicate	1,9 ± 0,02
Carboxymethylcellulose (CMC)	1,2 ± 0,02
Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), sodium salt	0,2 ± 0,02
Sodium sulfate	21,2 ± 0,02
Water	9,9 ± 0,02
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

**4.5** If required, **sodium carbonate** (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>).

**4.6 Sodium hypochlorite solution or lithium hypochlorite solution.**

The pH value and available chlorine content of a large number of trade-named solutions of sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) vary from pH 9,8 to pH 12,8 and the Cl<sub>2</sub> content from 40 g/l to 160 g/l. The actual available chlorine shall be determined before use and the following method is suggested.

Pipette a 1,00 ml portion of the stock sodium hypochlorite solution into a conical flask and dilute to 100 ml with grade 3 water (4.8). Add 20 ml of 294 g/l sulfuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) solution and 6 ml of 120 g/l potassium iodide (KI) solution. Titrate with standard volumetric sodium thiosulfate solution,  $c(\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}) = 0,1 \text{ mol/l}$ .

The available chlorine (Cl<sub>2</sub>) content is given, as a percentage by mass, by the formula

$$\frac{V \times c \times 0,0355}{V_0 \times \rho_0} \times 100$$

where

$V_0$  is the volume, in millilitres, of sodium hypochlorite solution taken;

$\rho_0$  is the density, in grams per millilitre, of the sodium hypochlorite solution;

$V$  is the volume, in millilitres, of sodium thiosulfate solution used;

$c$  is the amount of substance concentration, in moles per litre, of the sodium thiosulfate solution.

**4.7** If required, **sodium perborate tetrahydrate** (NaBO<sub>3</sub> · 4H<sub>2</sub>O).

**4.8 Grade 3 water**, complying with ISO 3696.

**4.9 Grey scale for assessing change in colour**, complying with ISO 105-A02.

**4.10 Grey scale for assessing staining**, complying with ISO 105-A03.

**4.11 Spectrophotometer or colorimeter for assessing change in colour and staining**, complying with ISO 105-A04 and ISO 105-A05.

**4.12** If required for souring treatment, **acetic acid solution** containing 0,2 g of glacial acetic acid per litre.

## 5 Test specimen

**5.1** If the textile to be tested is fabric, either

- a) attach a specimen measuring  $(100 \pm 2)$  mm  $\times$   $(40 \pm 2)$  mm to a piece of the multifibre adjacent fabric (4.3.1), also measuring  $(100 \pm 2)$  mm  $\times$   $(40 \pm 2)$  mm, by sewing along one of the shorter edges, with the multifibre adjacent fabric next to the face side of the specimen, or
- b) attach a specimen measuring  $(100 \pm 2)$  mm  $\times$   $(40 \pm 2)$  mm between the two single-fibre adjacent fabrics (4.3.2) by sewing along one of the shorter edges.

**5.2** Yarn may be knitted into fabric and tested in this form. Where yarns or loose fibres are to be tested, take a mass of the yarn or loose fibre approximately equal to one-half of the combined mass of the adjacent fabrics and either

- a) place it between a  $(100 \pm 2)$  mm  $\times$   $(40 \pm 2)$  mm piece of the multifibre fabric (4.3.1) and a  $(100 \pm 2)$  mm  $\times$   $(40 \pm 2)$  mm piece of the non-dyeable fabric (4.3.3), and sew them along all four sides (see ISO 105-A01), or
- b) place it between  $(100 \pm 2)$  mm  $\times$   $(40 \pm 2)$  mm pieces of the two specified single-fibre fabrics (4.3.2) and sew them along all four sides.

## 6 Test procedures

**6.1** Prepare the wash liquor by dissolving 4 g of detergent per litre of water (4.8). For all C, D or E tests, adjust the pH as stated in Table 4 by adding approximately 1 g of sodium carbonate per litre of solution. The liquor should be cooled to 20 °C before the pH is measured. For the A and B tests, no adjustment of pH is required.

**6.2** For tests where perborate (4.7) is employed, prepare the washing solution containing perborate at the time of use by heating the liquor to a maximum temperature of 60 °C for not more than 30 min.

**6.3** For tests D3S and D3M, add to the wash liquor sufficient sodium hypochlorite solution (4.6) or lithium hypochlorite solution (4.6) to provide the concentration of available chlorine specified in Table 4.

**6.4** Add to each stainless steel container (4.1) the volume of wash liquor specified in Table 4. Except for tests D2S and E2S, adjust the temperature of the liquor to within  $\pm 2$  °C of the specified temperature and then place the specimen, together with the specified number of steel balls (4.2), in the container. Close the container and operate the machine at the temperature and for the time specified in Table 4.

**6.5** For tests D2S and E2S, place the specimen in the container at a temperature of approximately 60 °C, close the container and raise the temperature to within  $\pm 2$  °C of the specified temperature in not more than 10 min. Begin timing the test as soon as the container is closed. Operate the machine at the temperature and for the time specified in Table 4.

**6.6** For all tests, remove the composite specimen at the end of the wash and rinse twice for 1 min in two separate 100 ml portions of water (4.8) at 40 °C.

**6.7** In countries where the practice is to sour at the end of the washing operation, the following optional operation may be conducted.

Treat each composite specimen in a 100 ml portion of acetic acid reagent (4.12) for 1 min at 30 °C. Then, rinse each composite specimen in a 100 ml portion of water (4.8) for 1 min at 30 °C.

**6.8** For all methods, extract the excess water from the composite specimen.

**6.9** For all methods, dry the specimen by hanging it in air at a temperature not exceeding 60 °C, with the parts in contact only at the line of stitching.

**6.10** Assess the change in colour of the specimen and the staining of the adjacent fabric using the grey scales (4.9 and 4.10) or instrumentally (see ISO 105-A04 and ISO 105-A05).

**6.11** If testing is performed at temperatures other than those listed in the method, it must first be agreed upon between the interested parties and detailed in the report [7 j)].

**Table 4 — Test conditions**

Test number	Temperature °C	Liquor volume ml	Available chlorine %	Sodium perborate g/l	Time min	Number of steel balls	Adjust pH to
A1S	40	150	None	None	30	10 <sup>a</sup>	Not adjusted
A1M	40	150	None	None	45	10	Not adjusted
A2S	40	150	None	1	30	10 <sup>a</sup>	Not adjusted
B1S	50	150	None	None	30	25 <sup>a</sup>	Not adjusted
B1M	50	150	None	None	45	50	Not adjusted
B2S	50	150	None	1	30	25 <sup>a</sup>	Not adjusted
C1S	60	50	None	None	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1
C1M	60	50	None	None	45	50	10,5 ± 0,1
C2S	60	50	None	1	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1
D1S	70	50	None	None	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1
D1M	70	50	None	None	45	100	10,5 ± 0,1
D2S	70	50	None	1	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1
D3S	70	50	0,015	None	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1
D3M	70	50	0,015	None	45	100	10,5 ± 0,1
E1S	95	50	None	None	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1
E2S	95	50	None	1	30	25	10,5 ± 0,1

<sup>a</sup> For delicate fabrics and articles of wool or silk or blends containing these fibres, steel balls are not used in the test. Record the use of steel balls in the test report [see 7 g)].