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Plastics — Determination of the melt mass-flow rate (MFR) and melt volume-flow rate (MVR) of thermoplastics —

Part 1: **Standard method**

Plastiques — Détermination de l'indice de fluidité à chaud des thermoplastiques, en masse (MFR) et en volume (MVR) —

Partie 1: Méthode normale

Reference number
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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).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Physical-chemical properties,* in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 249, *Plastics,* in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 1133-1:2011), of which it constitutes a minor revision. The changes are as follows:

— references to withdrawn standards in Annex B (informative), Annex D (informative) and Bibliography have been updated;

— editorial corrections.

A list of all parts in the ISO 1133 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

For stable materials that are not rheologically sensitive to the time-temperature history experienced during melt flow rate testing, this document is recommended.

For materials whose rheological behaviour is sensitive to the test's time-temperature history, e.g. materials which degrade during the test, ISO 1133-2 is recommended. Also, ISO 1133-2 is considered to be particularly relevant for moisture-sensitive plastics.

NOTE At the time of publication, there is no evidence to suggest that the use of ISO 1133-2 for stable materials results in better precision in comparison with the use of this document.

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Plastics — Determination of the melt mass-flow rate (MFR) and melt volume-flow rate (MVR) of thermoplastics —

Part 1: Standard method

WARNING — Persons using this document should be familiar with normal laboratory practice, if applicable. This document does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to ensure compliance with any regulatory requirements.

1 Scope

This document specifies two procedures for the determination of the melt mass-flow rate (MFR) and the melt volume-flow rate (MVR) of thermoplastic materials under specified conditions of temperature and load. Procedure A is a mass-measurement method. Procedure B is a displacement-measurement method. Normally, the test conditions for measurement of melt flow rate are specified in the material standard with a reference to this document. The test conditions normally used for thermoplastics are listed in Annex A.

The MVR is particularly useful when comparing materials of different filler content and when comparing filled with unfilled thermoplastics. The MFR can be determined from MVR measurements, or vice versa, provided the melt density at the test temperature is known.

This document is also possibly applicable to thermoplastics for which the rheological behaviour is affected during the measurement by phenomena such as hydrolysis (chain scission), condensation and cross-linking, but only if the effect is limited in extent and only if the repeatability and reproducibility are within an acceptable range. For materials which show significantly affected rheological behaviour during testing, this document is not appropriate. In such cases, ISO 1133-2 applies.

NOTE The rates of shear in these methods are much smaller than those used under normal conditions of processing, and therefore it is possible that data obtained by these methods for various thermoplastics will not always correlate with their behaviour during processing. Both methods are used primarily in quality control.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

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

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

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

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3.1
melt mass-flow rate
MFR
rate of extrusion of a molten resin through a die of specified length and diameter under prescribed conditions of temperature, load and piston position in the cylinder of an extrusion plastometer, the rate being determined as the mass extruded over a specified time

Note 1 to entry: MFR is expressed in units of grams per 10 min. Alternative units accepted by SI are decigrams per minute, where 1 g/10 min is equivalent to 1 dg/min.

3.2
melt volume-flow rate
MVR
rate of extrusion of a molten resin through a die of specified length and diameter under prescribed conditions of temperature, load and piston position in the cylinder of an extrusion plastometer, the rate being determined as the volume extruded over a specified time

Note 1 to entry: MVR is expressed in units of cubic centimetres per 10 min.

3.3
load
combined force exerted by the mass of the piston and the added weight, or weights, as specified by the conditions of the test

Note 1 to entry: Load is expressed as the mass, in kilograms, exerting it.

3.4
preformed compacted charge
test sample prepared as a compressed charge of polymer sample

Note 1 to entry: In order to introduce samples quickly into the bore of the cylinder and to ensure void-free extrudate, it may be necessary to preform samples originally in the form of, for example, powders or flakes into a compacted charge.

3.5
time-temperature history
history of the temperature and time to which the sample is exposed during testing including sample preparation

3.6
standard die
die having a nominal length of 8,000 mm and a nominal bore diameter of 2,095 mm

3.7
half size die
die having a nominal length of 4,000 mm and a nominal bore diameter of 1,050 mm

3.8
moisture-sensitive plastics
plastics having rheological properties that are sensitive to their moisture content

Note 1 to entry: Plastics which, when containing absorbed water and heated above their glass transition temperatures (for amorphous plastics) or melting point (for semi-crystalline plastics), undergo hydrolysis resulting in a reduction in molar mass and consequently a reduction in melt viscosity and an increase in MFR and MVR.

4 Principle

The melt mass-flow rate (MFR) and the melt volume-flow rate (MVR) are determined by extruding molten material from the cylinder of a plastometer through a die of specified length and diameter under preset conditions of temperature and load.

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