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Thermal insulation for building equipment and industrial installations — Calculation rules

Isolation thermique des équipements de bâtiments et des installations industrielles — Méthodes de calcul

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).

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).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of 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 www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 163, *Thermal performance and energy use in the built environment*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Calculation methods,* in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 89, *Thermal performance of buildings and building components*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 12241:2008), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— how to calculate the convective part of the external surface coefficient of heat transfer;

— how to introduce thermal bridges in the general heat loss calculation;

— provides detailed data along with the method for calculating fittings (thermal bridges), only informative.

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.

This corrected version of ISO 12241:2022 incorporates the following corrections:

Table 4, page 2: The header (Free convection/Nusselt number) has been removed as the information on page 2 belongs to the "Forced convection" element of the table.

Table A.2: The three instances of "to" were corrected to minus "−".

B.2: In the following formula, 101,510 was corrected to 101,595

$$Nu_{\text{free}} = (0{,}752 + 0{,}303 \cdot (8{,}51 \cdot 10^{8})^{1/6})^{2} = 101{,}595\,.$$

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Introduction

Methods relating to conduction are direct mathematical derivations from Fourier's law of heat conduction, so no significant difference in the formulae used in the member countries exists. For convection and radiation, however, there are no methods in practical use that are mathematically traceable to Newton's law of cooling or the Stefan-Boltzman law of thermal radiation, without some empirical element. For convection in particular, many different formulae have been developed, based on laboratory data. Different formulae have become popular in different countries, and no exact means are available to select between these formulae.

Within the limitations given below, these methods can be applied to most types of industrial, thermal-insulation, heat-transfer problems.

a) These methods do not take into account the permeation of air and the transmittance of thermal radiation through transparent media.

b) The formulae in these methods require for their solution that some system variables be known, given, assumed or measured. In all cases, the accuracy of the results depends on the accuracy of the input variables. This document contains no guidelines for accurate measurement of any of the variables. However, it does contain guides that have proven satisfactory for estimating some of the variables for many industrial thermal systems.

c) When the steady-state calculations are used in a changing thermal environment (process equipment operating year-round, outdoors, for example), it is necessary to use local weather data based on yearly averages or yearly extremes of the weather variables (depending on the nature of the particular calculation) for the calculations in this document.

d) In particular, the user should not infer from the methods of this document that either insulation quality or avoidance of dew formation can be reliably assured based on minimal, simple measurements and application of the basic calculation methods given here. For most industrial heat flow surfaces, there is no isothermal state (no one, homogeneous temperature across the surface), but rather a varying temperature profile. Furthermore, the heat flow through a surface at any point is a function of several variables that are not directly related to insulation quality. Among others, these variables include ambient temperature, movement of the air, roughness and emissivity of the heat flow surface, and the radiation exchange with the surroundings (which often vary widely). For calculation of dew formation, variability of the local humidity is an important factor.

e) Except inside buildings, the average temperature of the radiant background seldom corresponds to the air temperature, and measurement of background temperatures, emissivity and exposure areas is beyond the scope of this document. For these reasons, neither the surface temperature nor the temperature difference between the surface and the air can be used as a reliable indicator of insulation performance or avoidance of dew formation.

Clauses 4 and 5 of this document give the methods used for industrial thermal insulation calculations not covered by more specific standards.

Clauses 6 and 7 of this document are adaptations of the general formula for specific applications of calculating heat flow, temperature drop, and freezing times in pipes and other vessels. Thermal insulation to heating/cooling systems such as a boiler and refrigerator are not dealt with by this document.

Annexes A and B of this document are for information only.

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Thermal insulation for building equipment and industrial installations — Calculation rules

1 Scope

This document gives rules for the calculation of heat-transfer-related properties of building equipment and industrial installations, predominantly under steady-state conditions. This document also gives a simplified approach for the calculation of thermal bridges.

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 7345, *Thermal performance of buildings and building components — Physical quantities and definitions*

ISO 9346, *Hygrothermal performance of buildings and building materials — Physical quantities for mass transfer — Vocabulary*

ISO 13787, *Thermal insulation products for building equipment and industrial installations — Determination of declared thermal conductivity*

ISO 13788, *Hygrothermal performance of building components and building elements — Internal surface temperature to avoid critical surface humidity and interstitial condensation — Calculation methods*

ISO 23993, *Thermal insulation products for building equipment and industrial installations — Determination of design thermal conductivity*

3 Terms, definitions and symbols

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 7345, ISO 9346, ISO 13787 and ISO 23993 and the following 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/

3.1.1
thermally separated end disc
end disc used so that the extremities and end caps are not in contact with the object

Note 1 to entry: This construction is used to avoid thermal bridges and the risk of damaging vapour retarders or pipe tracing [15].

3.2 Symbols

Table 1 gives the definition and unit of symbols used in this document.

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