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**Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of  
producing test plates —**

**Part 2:**

**Contact and spray-up moulding**

*Plastiques renforcés de fibres — Méthodes de fabrication de plaques  
d'essai —*

*Partie 2: Moulage au contact et par projection*



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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 3.

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 part of ISO 1268 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

International Standard ISO 1268-2 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Composites and reinforcement fibres*.

Together with the other parts (see below), this part of ISO 1268 cancels and replaces ISO 1268:1974, which has been technically revised.

ISO 1268 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of producing test plates*:

- *Part 1: General conditions*
- *Part 2: Contact and spray-up moulding*
- *Part 3: Wet compression moulding*
- *Part 4: Moulding of prepregs*
- *Part 5: Filament winding*
- *Part 6: Pultrusion moulding*
- *Part 7: Resin transfer moulding*
- *Part 8: Compression moulding of SMC and BMC*
- *Part 9: Moulding of GMT/STC*

The following additional parts are in preparation:

- *Part 10: Injection moulding of SMC and BMC — General principles and moulding of multipurpose test specimens*
- *Part 11: Injection moulding of SMC and BMC — Small plates*

Annex A of this part of ISO 1268 is for information only.

# Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of producing test plates —

## Part 2:

## Contact and spray-up moulding

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 1268 specifies methods for preparing reinforced plastics test plates either by contact moulding or by spray-up moulding.

It applies exclusively to glass reinforcements.

It is intended to be read in conjunction with ISO 1268-1.

### 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 1268. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this part of ISO 1268 are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to applies. Members of ISO and IEC maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 1172, *Textile-glass-reinforced plastics — Prepregs, moulding compounds and laminates — Determination of the textile-glass and mineral-filler content — Calcination methods*.

ISO 1268-1, *Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of producing test plates — Part 1: General conditions*.

### 3 Health and safety

See ISO 1268-1.

### 4 Principle

#### 4.1 Contact moulding

Reinforcement layers (as described in 5.1) are placed on a rigid flat plate and manually impregnated with liquid thermosetting resin. The resin is formulated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to attain cure within a period of time that allows completion of the lay-up, yet limits unnecessary exposure to the atmosphere. The glass fibre and resin are consolidated by means of a hand-operated roller.

This method is suitable for any thermosetting resin that cures at room temperature without the need for additional pressure to be applied.

## 4.2 Spray-up moulding

Textile glass rovings are chopped to predetermined lengths in a cutter and simultaneously combined with a stream of tiny resin droplets emerging from a spray-gun nozzle. This method is normally used with unsaturated-polyester resins.

Glass fibre and resin are dispersed on a rigid flat plate or a mould, and consolidated by means of a hand-operated roller.

## 5 Materials

### 5.1 Contact moulding

**5.1.1 Layers of reinforcing material**, cut to the dimensions of the test plate, marking the warp and weft or preferred direction when appropriate. Suitable materials include chopped-strand mats with a binder that is soluble in the resin mix, woven fabrics made from rovings or yarns, multiaxial non-woven fabrics, etc.

**5.1.2 Thermosetting resin and curing agents**, mixed in accordance with the supplier's instructions for room temperature curing.

**5.1.3 Release agent**, to be applied to the mould or plate on which the test plate is to be made.

### 5.2 Spray-up moulding

**5.2.1 Roving or yarn packages.**

**5.2.2 Pre-activated thermosetting resin** (use a resin specially recommended for spray-up moulding).

**5.2.3 Catalyst** that is recommended for the resin used.

**5.2.4 Release agent.**

## 6 Plate dimensions

### 6.1 General

The length, width and thickness of the plate will depend upon the material being processed and the method used for processing.

### 6.2 Contact moulding

The recommended dimensions are 600 mm × 600 mm. This size is sufficient to obtain test specimens for tensile and flexural tests along two perpendicular directions.

The thickness shall be from 2 mm to 10 mm.

### 6.3 Spray-up moulding

The recommended dimensions are 600 mm × 600 mm. This size is sufficient to obtain test specimens for tensile and flexural tests along two perpendicular directions.

The thickness shall not be greater than that which allows all air bubbles to be removed from the laminate by use of a roller (typically 2 mm to 5 mm).

## 7 Reinforcement content

### 7.1 General

The reinforcement content of the laminate produced will depend on the type of reinforcement used. The recommended percentage of reinforcement by mass for woven rovings is  $(50 \pm 3) \%$ ; for mats and chopped rovings it is  $(32 \pm 4) \%$ .

### 7.2 Contact moulding

To achieve the thickness and reinforcement content desired, it may be necessary to conduct preliminary trials and measure these properties before the final technique for fabrication is determined.

A guide to determining the number of layers of reinforcement to be used is given in annex A.

### 7.3 Spray-up moulding

To achieve the thickness and reinforcement content desired, it may be necessary to conduct preliminary trials and measure these properties before the final spraying technique is determined.

Multiple sprayed layers are preferable to a single spray application and it is recommended that one layer of sprayed material has a thickness of about 1 mm.

## 8 Apparatus

### 8.1 Contact moulding

**8.1.1 Scissors or knife**, for cutting the reinforcement material.

**8.1.2 Balance**, accurate to the nearest 0,1 g.

**8.1.3 Beakers**, made of glass, plastic or uncoated paper (waxed paper is also suitable).

**8.1.4 Brushes**.

**8.1.5 Mohair or steel rollers**, with or without liner.

**8.1.6 Rigid flat plate**, made of polished steel or any other non-porous material, with raised edges (to prevent resin run-off) made from material which is not affected by the resin used.

**8.1.7 Ventilated oven**, with timer and controls (if necessary).

**8.1.8 Desiccator** (if necessary).

### 8.2 Spray-up moulding

The apparatus specified in 8.1, plus the following:

**8.2.1 Glass-chopper/spray-gun unit**.

**8.2.2 Stopwatch**.

## 9 Procedure

### 9.1 Contact moulding

**9.1.1** Prepare the test plate using the same parameters (number of layers, orientation, glass fibre content and type of resin) as would be used to produce the laminate being assessed.

**9.1.2** Coat the plate or mould on which the laminate will be made with a layer of release agent, allow the layer to dry, and polish it if necessary.

**9.1.3** Cut layers of reinforcement to the dimensions necessary to give a surface area large enough to enable the specified number of test specimens to be obtained.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding conditioning of the reinforcement material. Dry the material, if necessary, before processing.

**9.1.4** Determine the total mass  $m_1$  of the conditioned reinforcement layers.

**9.1.5** Determine the amount of resin  $m_2$  required to give the desired reinforcement content. The following equation may be used as a guide for this:

$$m_2 = m_1 \times \frac{100 - w_g}{w_g} \times 1,2$$

where

$m_1$  is the mass of glass fibre, in grams;

$m_2$  is the mass of resin, in grams;

$w_g$  is the glass fibre content desired in the laminate, expressed as a percentage of the total mass.

**NOTE** A 20 % excess of resin is included to compensate for losses due to resin spills along the edges, absorption by the rollers, etc.

**9.1.6** Condition the resin to the temperature of the laminating room before addition of the curing agents. Once the resin is fully mixed, begin laminating immediately.

**9.1.7** Apply a thin layer of resin and spread evenly over a surface area equivalent to the laminate dimensions. The amount of resin to be used will depend on the thickness of the individual reinforcement layers.

Then carefully place the first layer of reinforcement on the resin film.

Once the resin has wetted the reinforcement from beneath, remove any remaining air pockets by means of a roller.

Next apply a further coat of resin and put a second layer of reinforcement material in place, impregnating it in the same way as described above.

**9.1.8** When all the layers have been applied, proceed to the curing of the plate (see 9.3).

### 9.2 Spray-up moulding

**9.2.1** Insert the specified type of glass fibre roving into the chopper and adjust the pressure between the cutter roller and anvil roller to give clean chopping without excessive friction.

**9.2.2** Fill the dispenser tanks of the equipment with the pre-activated resin and the catalyst.



**9.2.3** Operate the chopper for exactly 15 s, then weigh the chopped fibres.

Spray the resin for exactly 15 s, without using atomizing air, into a suitable receptacle (e.g. a paper cup) and weigh the resin in the receptacle.

Adjust the pressure on the chopper and the spray gun to give the desired ratio of resin and glass fibre in the output.

**9.2.4** Coat the plate or mould on which the laminate will be made with a layer of release agent, allow the layer to dry, and polish it if necessary.

**9.2.5** Apply regular layers of chopped fibres and resin, rolling after the application of each layer to remove excess air.

**9.2.6** When the required thickness has been reached, proceed to the curing of the plate (see 9.3).

### 9.3 Curing conditions

Unless other conditions are recommended by the resin manufacturer, use one of the following:

- either leave the plate on its plate-mould for 48 h at room temperature;
- or release the plate from the plate-mould after a maximum of 4 h, place it on a plane support in an oven set at 40 °C and leave in the oven at this temperature for 16 h.

These curing conditions allow production of a stabilized material corresponding to general use. When a plate is specifically manufactured to fit particular needs, it is necessary to carry out, in addition, a post-curing stage, using times and temperatures in accordance with the resin manufacturer's recommendations.

On completion of curing, cool the plate for 60 min at room temperature, if applicable.

Trim the edges of the plate before taking test specimens.

## 10 Verification of the characteristics of the plate obtained

Visually examine the plate obtained to determine if it is acceptable in appearance.

If so, determine the fibre content by the method specified in ISO 1172. The recommended values of the fibre content are given in 7.1.

If required, determine the void content by a suitable method.

## 11 Marking

Mark each plate with a reference linking it with the relevant test plate preparation report.

## 12 Test plate preparation report

The test plate preparation report shall include the following information:

- a) a reference to this part of ISO 1268;
- b) the place and date of production of the test plate;
- c) the procedure used (contact moulding or spray-up moulding);
- d) in the case of contact moulding:
  - 1) details of any conditioning of the reinforcement,
  - 2) the number of layers, and the direction of each layer if applicable;