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**Leather — Tests for colour fastness  
— Colour fastness to migration into  
polymeric material**

*Cuir — Essais de solidité des coloris — Solidité des coloris à la  
migration dans les matériaux polymères*

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## Contents

|                                                                            | Page |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Foreword .....                                                             | iv   |
| 1 Scope .....                                                              | 1    |
| 2 Normative references .....                                               | 1    |
| 3 Principle .....                                                          | 1    |
| 4 Apparatus and materials .....                                            | 1    |
| 5 Test specimens .....                                                     | 2    |
| 6 Procedure .....                                                          | 3    |
| 7 Precision .....                                                          | 4    |
| 8 Test report .....                                                        | 4    |
| Annex A (informative) Commercial sources for apparatus and materials ..... | 5    |

## 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](http://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](http://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 on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

ISO 15701 was prepared by the Fastness Tests Commission of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IUF Commission, IULTCS) in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 289, *Leather*, the secretariat of which is held by UNI, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

It is based on IUF 442 published in *J. Sec. Leather Tech. Chem.*, **56**, pp. 395-400 (1972) with a minor amendment in **65**, p. 128 (1981), and declared an official method of the IULTCS in 1973 and reconfirmed in 1989.

IULTCS, originally formed in 1897, is a world-wide organization of professional leather societies to further the advancement of leather science and technology. IULTCS has three Commissions, which are responsible for establishing international methods for the sampling and testing of leather. ISO recognizes IULTCS as an international standardizing body for the preparation of test methods for leather.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15701:1998), which has been technically revised with the following changes:

- use of polymeric test materials other than poly(vinyl chloride) is allowed;
- change in title to reflect the use of polymeric test materials;
- technical update of the procedures;
- revision of the loading in [4.1](#) and [6.1](#);
- inclusion of precision information as [Clause 7](#).

[Annex A](#) is for information only.

# Leather — Tests for colour fastness — Colour fastness to migration into polymeric material

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for assessing the propensity of dyes and pigments to migrate from leather to a synthetic substrate by determining the transfer of colour from the leather to white plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) in contact with it.

This method is suitable for leather of all kinds at any stage of processing.

NOTE Tests to determine the transfer of colour from the leather using other polymeric materials (e.g. thermoplastic polyurethane) are also possible.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. 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-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 2418, *Leather — Chemical, physical and mechanical and fastness tests — Sampling location*

## 3 Principle

The side under test of the leather specimen is placed on a polymeric sheet, for example a white-pigmented sheet of plasticized poly(vinyl chloride), and the resultant composite specimen is exposed to heat under pressure in a suitable apparatus. The transfer of colour from the leather to the white sheet is assessed with the standard grey scale for assessing staining and, if applicable, any change in hue of the staining is also assessed.

The use of standard sheets of plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) makes it possible to determine the tendency of colour to migrate from the leather to synthetic materials used in conjunction with the leather.

If the leather has a finish, the test may be carried out with the finish intact or broken.

The general colour fastness testing principles used are in accordance with those described in ISO 105-A01, taking into account the differences between textile substrates and leather.

## 4 Apparatus and materials

Normal laboratory apparatus and:

**4.1 Test apparatus**, in which the composite specimen can be subjected, between glass plates, to a uniform pressure of  $(81,7 \pm 4,0)$  kPa using an approximately 5 kg load weight. The pressure tolerance includes a maximal supplementary mass due to the glass plates of 250 g. The construction of the test apparatus shall ensure that the pressure is constant during the whole test.

NOTE 1 The 81,7 kPa pressure from a 5 kg load weight is equivalent to 833 g/cm<sup>2</sup> on the (30 × 20) mm leather specimen.

NOTE 2 A test apparatus that allows removal of the load weight after fixing the composite specimens is not suitable for this test.

NOTE 3 Examples of suitable apparatus available commercially are given in [Annex A](#).

**4.2 Oven**, maintained at (50 ± 2) °C.

**4.3 Sheet of suitable polymeric material**, preferably pigmented white.

If no additional information is provided, use **plasticized poly(vinyl chloride)**, pigmented white, (0,5 ± 0,1) mm thick, measuring approximately 50 mm × 30 mm.

NOTE Examples of suitable commercial sources for the prepared sheets of polyvinyl chloride and the specifications are given in [Annex A](#).

**4.4** If the finish is to be broken, **fine-grained abrasive paper**, grade P180, as defined in the P-series grain size standard published by the Federation of European Producers of Abrasive Products (FEPA).

NOTE FEPA Standard (43-1-2006), obtainable from FEPA (Federation of European Producers of Abrasives), 20 Avenue Reille, 75014 Paris, France. [www.fepa-abrasives.org](http://www.fepa-abrasives.org)

**4.5 Press knife**, the inner wall of which is a rectangle (30 ± 1) mm × (20 ± 1) mm.

**4.6 Grey scale for assessing staining**, complying with ISO 105-A03 or an **instrumental system for assessing staining**, complying with ISO 105-A04.

## 5 Test specimens

**5.1** If the piece of leather available for testing is a whole hide or skin, then first take a sample in accordance with ISO 2418.

**5.2** If the leather has no finish, or if it has a finish but is to be tested with the finish intact, or the reverse side of the leather is to be tested, with the press knife (4.5) simply cut out a representative test specimen measuring 30 mm × 20 mm.

In case of a differing load weight, it is possible to realize the pressure stated in 4.1 either by adding a supplementary load (only possible for lower load weights) or by adjusting the dimensions of the specimen. The second possibility is restricted by the dimensions of the plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) sheet that has to exceed the dimensions of the test specimen.

A modality to recalculate the specimen area is given below.

$$A_1 = \frac{(m_1 \times A_0)}{m_0}$$

where

$A_0$  is the area of the specimen stated by this International Standard;

$A_1$  is the recalculated area of the specimen;

$m_0$  is the load weight stated by this International Standard;

$m_1$  is the load weight existing in the laboratory.

**EXAMPLE** If the available load weight  $m_1$  is 4,5 kg, additional loading pieces of 0,5 kg are permitted to be added or a specimen with a different area is allowed to be used. The new area would be in this case of 5,4 cm<sup>2</sup> (27 mm × 20 mm) instead of 6 cm<sup>2</sup>.

**5.3** If the leather has a finish and is to be tested with the finish broken, prepare the test specimen as follows:

Cut out a piece of leather measuring approximately 80 mm × 60 mm and lay it out, finish side down, on a sheet of abrasive paper (4.4), measuring about 150 mm × 200 mm, held flat on a work surface. Load the upper side of the piece of leather uniformly with a 1 kg weight. Move the piece of leather 100 mm to-and-fro on the abrasive paper, carrying out 10 to-and-fro cycles.

**NOTE** With practice, it is possible to achieve the same roughening effect holding the abrasive paper in the hand.

Brush the roughened area thoroughly to remove all dust. From the roughened area of the leather, use the press knife (4.5) to cut out a test specimen measuring 30 mm × 20 mm.

The fact that the finish has been broken shall be mentioned in the test report.

**5.4** Make up a composite specimen by placing the test specimen, with the side to be tested face down, in the centre of an approximately (50 × 30) mm piece of the plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) sheet (4.3).

## 6 Procedure

**6.1** The load weight shall be preheated in the oven (4.2) at (50 ± 2) °C for at least 2 h. Place the composite specimen between two glass plates, place the plates in the apparatus (4.1) and load with an approximately 5 kg load weight [corresponding to a pressure of (81,7 ± 4,0) kPa on the leather].

It is possible to test several composite specimens simultaneously, but care shall be taken to place each centrally between two plates so that pressure is exerted evenly over the specimen surfaces.

**6.2** Place the apparatus in the oven at (50 ± 2) °C for 16 h.

**NOTE** Different test temperatures can be used as appropriate for assessing particular aspects of colour migration, such as for example the higher temperatures encountered in some processing procedures.

**6.3** On completion of the heat treatment, take the apparatus from the oven, remove the load weight from the composite specimens and allow them to cool to room temperature.

**6.4** As soon as the composite specimens have cooled, separate them into their component elements and assess any staining of the plasticized poly(vinyl chloride) sheet with the grey scale (4.6). This is done by

assessing, either visually in accordance with ISO 105-A03 or instrumentally in accordance with ISO 105-A04, the contrast between that part of the poly(vinyl chloride) sheet which has been in contact with the specimen and that part which has not. If any dust or loose fibres adhere to the poly(vinyl chloride), remove them by wiping with a damp cloth before assessment.

If required, the staining on the back of the poly(vinyl chloride) sheet may also be assessed.

The assessment of the staining of the poly(vinyl chloride) sheet shall be carried out immediately after the composite specimen has cooled, since the stain often migrates over time into the sheet, thus decreasing the intensity of the staining on the side being assessed.

If necessary, an intermediate assessment may also be made, for example, after heating the weighted composite specimen for only 2 h.

If the colour of the staining on the poly(vinyl chloride) sheet is different from the colour of the leather, note the hue of the staining.

## **7 Precision**

For the visual grey scale evaluations, an inter-person precision of  $\pm 0,5$  grey scale units is normal.

## **8 Test report**

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) a reference to this International Standard, i.e. ISO 15701;
- b) a description of the leather tested;
- c) an indication as to which surface of the leather was tested;
- d) whether there was a finish and, if so, if the test was carried out with the finish broken;
- e) the test temperature, if not 50 °C;
- f) the grey scale method used and the grey scale rating obtained for the staining of the plasticized poly(vinyl chloride), describing also the hue of the staining where it differs from that of the leather;
- g) the source of the polymeric material used (e.g. PVC according to [Annex A](#));
- h) detailed description of any other polymeric material, if used;
- i) details of any deviations from the procedure;
- j) the date of the test.