
**Optics and photonics —
Environmental test methods —**

Part 23:

**Low pressure combined with cold,
ambient temperature and dry or damp
heat**

Optique et photonique — Méthodes d'essais d'environnement —

*Partie 23: Basse pression combinée à la température ambiante et
froide et à la chaleur sèche ou humide*



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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 172, *Optics and Photonics*, Subcommittee SC 1, *Fundamental standards*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 9022-23:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- Introductory sentences of [5.3](#), [5.4](#) and [5.5](#) were clarified,
- [Clause 3](#) was included and the document renumbered.

A list of all parts in the ISO 9022 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.

Introduction

Optical instruments are affected during their use by a number of different environmental parameters which they are required to resist without significant reduction in performance and to remain within defined specifications.

The type and severity of these parameters depend on the conditions of use of the instrument (for example, in the laboratory or workshop) and on its geographical location. The environmental effects on optical instrument performance in the tropics and subtropics are totally different from those found when they are used in arctic regions. Individual parameters cause a variety of different and overlapping effects on instrument performance.

The manufacturer attempts to ensure, and the user naturally expects, that instruments will resist the likely rigours of their environment throughout their life. This expectation can be assessed by exposure of the instrument to a range of simulated environmental parameters under controlled laboratory conditions. The severity of these conditions is often increased to obtain meaningful results in a relatively short period of time.

In order to allow assessment and comparison of the response of optical instruments to appropriate environmental conditions, the ISO 9022 series contains details of a number of laboratory tests which reliably simulate a variety of different environments. The tests are based largely on IEC standards, modified where necessary to take into account features special to optical instruments.

As a result of continuous progress in all fields, optical instruments are no longer only precision-engineered optical products, but, depending on their range of application, also contain additional assemblies from other fields. For this reason, the principal function of the instrument is to be assessed to determine which International Standard should be used for testing. If the optical function is of primary importance, then the ISO 9022 series is applicable, but if other functions take precedence, then the appropriate International Standard in the field concerned should be applied. Cases may arise where application of both the ISO 9022 series and other appropriate International Standards will be necessary.

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Optics and photonics — Environmental test methods —

Part 23:

Low pressure combined with cold, ambient temperature and dry or damp heat

1 Scope

This document specifies the methods relating to the environmental tests of optical instruments including additional assemblies from other fields (e.g. mechanical, chemical, and electronic devices), under equivalent conditions, for their ability to resist the influence of low pressure combined with cold, including the potential condensation and freezing of moisture, ambient temperature, and dry or damp heat.

This document is applicable to optical instruments including additional assemblies from other fields, designed for operation and/or transport in high mountainous areas or on board aircraft or missiles.

The purpose of the testing is to investigate to what extent optical, climatic, mechanical, chemical, and electrical (including electrostatic) performance characteristics of the specimen are affected by combined low pressure and low, ambient, or high temperature. Furthermore, the additional effects of moisture condensing and freezing on the instrument or components can be determined. Examples are instruments which are installed or externally mounted on aircraft or missiles or transported inside aircraft or flying objects not providing any pressure equalization.

[Annex A](#) explains the intent of the different types of tests.

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 9022-1, *Optics and photonics — Environmental test methods — Part 1: Definitions, extent of testing*

ISO 9022-8, *Optics and photonics — Environmental test methods — Part 8: High internal pressure, low internal pressure, immersion*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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/>

4 General information and test conditions

Ambient temperature as understood by this document is $(23 \pm 3) ^\circ\text{C}$.

The values of temperatures and climatic conditions specified in [Table 1](#) to [Table 6](#) are selected from ISO 9022-2, conditioning methods 10, 11, and 12.

The size of the test chamber and the setup of the specimens shall be chosen in such a way that a uniform temperature for all specimens within the test chamber is ensured.

For conditioning methods 45, 46, 50, and 51, air circulation in low-pressure cabinets or low-pressure chambers is required. The low-pressure chamber, itself, can either be equipped as a thermal chamber or be installed in a thermal chamber.

For conditioning methods 47 to 49, a climatic test chamber is required. Three different test methods are used to test combined damp heat and low internal pressure resistance of optical instruments. Dew on the specimen is admissible. The individual test steps shall be performed directly one after another. Interruption of the test is not admissible.

In addition for conditioning method 47, if condensation is produced, the specimens shall be protected against falling drops.

In addition for conditioning method 48, a low-pressure container is also required.

In addition for conditioning method 49, the specimens shall have a test connection for evacuation and pressure measurement, as specified in ISO 9022-8.

Changes in temperature shall be effected sufficiently slowly not to cause any damage to the specimen. Shock-type air pressure changes shall be avoided unless they are likely to be encountered in the natural environment.

5 Conditioning

5.1 Conditioning method 45 — Low ambient pressure combined with ambient temperature

See [Table 1](#).

Table 1 — Degrees of severity for conditioning method 45 — Low ambient pressure combined with ambient temperature

Degree of severity		01	02	03	04
Test chamber temperature	°C	23 ± 3	23 ± 3	23 ± 3	23 ± 3
Test chamber pressure	hPa	800 ± 30	700 ± 30	600 ± 30	500 ± 30
Time of pressure reduction and pressure increase	min	≤15			
Period of conditioning	h	≥ 1 ^a			
State of operation		2	2	2	2
^a With thermally active specimens after the steady-state temperature of the specimen has been reached.					

5.2 Conditioning method 46 — Low ambient pressure combined with dry heat

See [Table 2](#).

Table 2 — Degrees of severity for conditioning method 46 — Low ambient pressure combined with dry heat

Degree of severity		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Test chamber temperature	°C	40 ± 3	40 ± 3	55 ± 3	55 ± 3	63 ± 3	63 ± 3	85 ± 3 ^a	85 ± 3 ^a	40 ± 3	55 ± 3	63 ± 3	85 ± 3 ^a
Test chamber pressure	hPa	100 ± 5								10 ± 1			
Time of pressure reduction and pressure increase	min	≤15								≤80			
Mean temperature change during heating/cooling	K/min	0,2 to 2											
Exposure time	h	24	72	24	72	24	72	24	72	24	24	24	24
State of operation		1 or 2											
^a State of operation 1 only.													

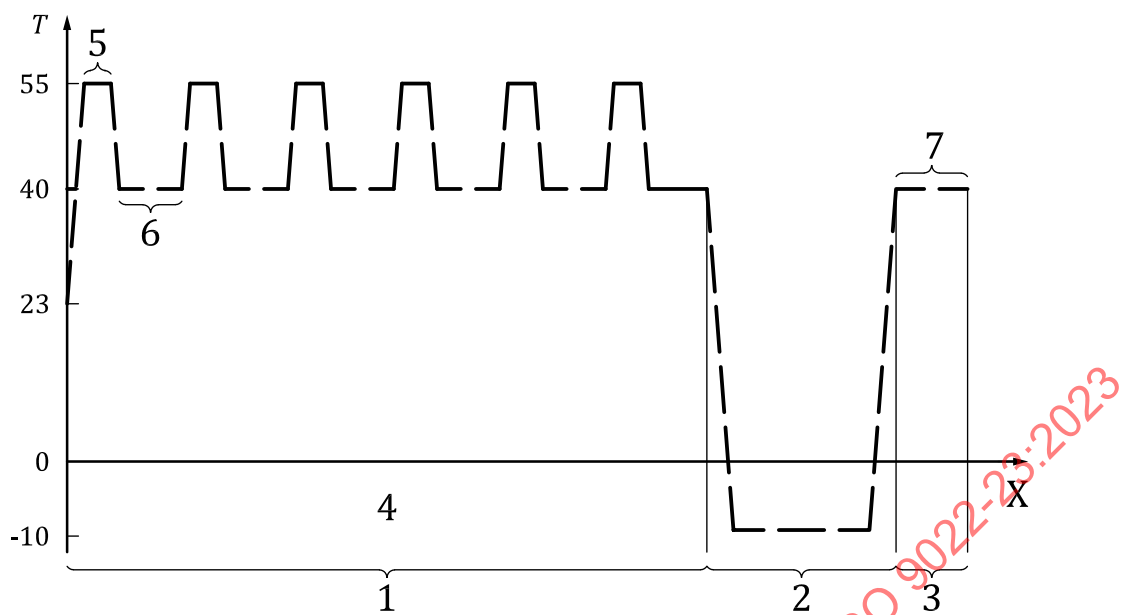
5.3 Conditioning method 47 — Low internal pressure combined with damp heat, pressure difference low

See [Table 3](#) and [Figure 1](#).

Conditioning method 47 shall be used for optical instruments where demands made on their sealing (low pressure resistance) are low. Examples of instruments with low pressure differences would be systems that comply with the requirements of the degrees of severity 01, 02, 07, or 08 of conditioning method 81 in ISO 9022-8.

Table 3 — Degrees of severity for conditioning method 47 — Low internal pressure combined with damp heat, pressure difference low

Degree of severity				01	02	03	04	05	06
Condition 1	Step 1	Test chamber temperature	°C	55 ± 2		63 ± 2		70 ± 2	
		Relative humidity	%	<40					
		Exposure time	h	Until the internal air of the specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					
	Step 2	Climatic conditions		40 °C ± 2 °C and 90 % to 95 % relative humidity.					
		Exposure time	h	≥1					
	Number of cycles			6	12	6	12	6	12
Condition 2	Test chamber temperature		°C	-10 ± 3					
	Exposure time		h	Until specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					
Condition 3	Test chamber temperature		°C	40 ± 2					
	Relative humidity		%	<40					
	Exposure time		h	Until specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					
State of operation				1					



Key

- X

duration, h
- T

temperature, °C
- 1

condition 1
- 2

condition 2
- 3

condition 3
- 4

duration according to [Table 1](#)
- 5

relative humidity, <40 %
- 6

relative humidity, 90 % to 95 %
- 7

relative humidity, <40 %

Figure 1 — Cycling curve for conditioning method 47, using example of degree of severity 01

5.4 Conditioning method 48 — Low internal pressure combined with damp heat, pressure difference medium

See [Table 4](#).

Conditioning method 48 shall be used for optical instruments where demands made on their sealing (low pressure resistance) are medium. Examples of instruments with medium pressure differences would be systems that comply with the requirements of the degrees of severity 03, 04, 09, or 10 of conditioning method 81 in ISO 9022-8.

Table 4 — Degrees of severity for conditioning method 48 — Low internal pressure combined with damp heat, pressure difference medium

Degree of severity				01	02	03	04	05	06
Condition 1	Step 1	Test chamber temperature	°C	40 ± 2					
		Test chamber pressure	hPa	800		650		500	
		Exposure time	h	≥1					
	Step 2	Climatic conditions		40 °C ± 2 °C and 90 % to 95 % relative humidity.					
		Exposure time	h	≥1,5					
	Number of cycles		3	6	3	6	3	6	
Condition 2	Test chamber temperature		°C	-10 ± 3					
	Exposure time		h	Until specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					

Table 4 (continued)

Degree of severity			01	02	03	04	05	06
Condition 3	Test chamber temperature	°C	40 ± 2					
	Relative humidity	%	<40					
	Exposure time	h	Until specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					
State of operation			1					

5.5 Conditioning method 49 — Low internal pressure combined with damp heat, pressure difference high

See [Table 5](#).

Conditioning method 49 shall be used for optical instruments where demands made on their sealing (low pressure resistance) are high. Examples of instruments with high pressure differences would be systems that comply with the requirements of the degrees of severity 05, 06, 11, 12, or 13 of conditioning method 81 in ISO 9022-8.

Table 5 — Degrees of severity for conditioning method 49 — Low internal pressure combined with damp heat, pressure difference high

Degree of severity			01	02	03	04	05	06
Condition 1	Climatic conditions		40 °C ± 2 °C and 90 % to 95 % relative humidity.					
	Constant pressure reduction in specimen interior with respect to surrounding pressure	hPa	200		350		500	
	Exposure time during constant pressure reduction	h	≥1					
Condition 2	Climatic conditions		40 °C ± 2 °C and 90 % to 95 % relative humidity.					
	Exposure time after termination of constant pressure reduction (vacuum pump disconnected)	h	≥4				≥6	
Condition 3	Test chamber temperature	°C	-10 ± 3					
	Exposure time	h	Until specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					
Condition 4	Test chamber temperature	°C	40 ± 2					
	Relative humidity	%	<40					
	Exposure time	h	Until specimen has reached a temperature at least within 3 K of the test chamber temperature.					
State of operation			1					

5.6 Conditioning method 50 — Low ambient pressure combined with cold, including hoarfrost and dew

Degrees of severity 01 to 08 shall be applicable, as specified in [Table 6](#).

5.7 Conditioning method 51 — Low ambient pressure combined with cold, without hoarfrost and dew

Degrees of severity 01 to 04, 06 and 07 shall be applicable, as specified in [Table 6](#).

Table 6 — Degrees of severity for conditioning methods 50 and 51 — Low ambient pressure combined with cold

Degree of severity		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	
Test chamber temperature		°C	-25 ± 3	-40 ± 3	-25 ± 3	-40 ± 3	-65 ± 3	-25 ± 3	-40 ± 3	-65 ± 3
Test chamber pressure		hPa	600 ± 30		85 ± 10		10 ± 5			
	Equivalent altitude ^a	m	3 500		16 000		31 000			
Time of pressure reduction and pressure increase		min	max. 5		max. 20		max. 40			
Mean temperature change during heating/cooling		K/min	In the range of 0,2 to 2							
Exposure time		h	4							
State of operation			1 or 2							
^a The data are based on bad weather conditions.										

6 Procedure

6.1 General

The test shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the relevant specification and with ISO 9022-1.

See [Annex A](#) for explanatory notes of conditioning methods 47 to 51 and an example of conditioning method 50.

6.2 Procedure for conditioning method 45

With conditioning method 45, the thermally active specimen (unless the relevant specification stipulates otherwise) shall be put into operation after the test pressure has been reached. These specimens shall be subjected to the test pressure until the temperature of the specimen increases by no more than 1 K within 1 h (steady-state temperature).

When the pressure is rising, no condensation shall occur on the specimen. Ways of preventing this are either the use of repurified nitrogen or dry air for the ventilation of the test chamber or radiant heating of the specimen.

6.3 Procedure for conditioning method 46

To achieve the test temperature, heating shall be started before the pressure is reduced. The specimen shall have reached the specified test temperature before the test pressure is adjusted. Thermally active specimens shall be subjected to the test temperature until the temperature of the specimen changes not more than 1 K/h during constant test chamber temperature. Then, pressure reduction shall be started. Intrinsic heating of the specimen during this procedure shall be admissible.

The period of conditioning shall start when all parts of the specimen have reached a temperature within 3 K of the test chamber temperature and the specified pressure has been reached.

After completion of conditioning, the rise in pressure is initiated simultaneously to the cooling down of the test chamber to ambient temperature. The temperature shall be measured in the test chamber and on the specimen. The location of the temperature sensor on the specimen shall be specified in the relevant specification. The location of the temperature sensor for measuring the chamber air temperature shall be noted in the test report.

When the pressure is rising, no condensation shall occur on the specimen. Ways of preventing this are either the use of repurified nitrogen or dry air for the ventilation of the test chamber or radiant heating of the specimen.

6.4 Procedure for conditioning method 47

6.4.1 Initial and final inspection

A visual inspection shall be performed with a $\times 4$ to $\times 10$ magnification against a dark background. The illumination during the check shall be provided by an illumination device providing 5 000 lx through a collimated light source or gooseneck fibre bundle light source with a daylight-equivalent colour temperature. Subsequent to 24 h storage at room temperature, the surfaces of the dismantled optical components shall be inspected for the nature and extent of any change in the optical surfaces that could have occurred, using a magnification of $\times 4$ to $\times 10$ under dark-field illumination of 5 000 lx through a collimated light source or gooseneck fibre bundle light source, with a daylight-equivalent colour temperature.

6.4.2 Preliminary test 1

Prior to commencement of testing, all specimens shall be inspected for interior moisture caused by excessive humidity during assembly. The specimens shall be cooled at a test chamber temperature of $-10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, long enough for all parts of the specimen to reach a temperature within at least 3 K of the test chamber temperature. The specimens shall then be heated immediately in a preheated test chamber at approximately $40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The specimens shall be closely observed during heating, and any in which a coating of moisture appears, even briefly, shall be excluded from the test.

6.4.3 Preliminary test 2

In order to establish the warm-up time of the internal air during the cycling, sensing devices shall be mounted in a representative number of separate internal air spaces of the specimens. The time period to be measured is that required for the heating of the internal air in the changeover from step 2 to step 1 to a temperature within 3 K of the prescribed test chamber temperature in step 1. This time period shall be considered as the exposure time in step 1. If several sensing devices are used, the mean of the individual measurements shall be considered as the exposure time.

6.4.4 Condition 1

The instrument-specific exposure time in step 1 established in preliminary test 2 shall be kept to $\pm 10\%$ in order to avoid drying out of the instrument due to excessive exposure times. A tolerance of ± 2 min is admissible for exposure time < 20 min. The changeover from step 1 to step 2 or vice versa shall take place quickly enough to ensure that the specimen undergoes a temperature change not greater than 3 K. At the commencement of the test, the required warm-up time from the room temperature to $40\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ shall be added.

6.4.5 Conditions 2 and 3

The specimen shall be subjected to condition 2 immediately after condition 1. Transfer to condition 3 shall also be performed immediately. The specimen shall be constantly observed during the warm-up period in condition 3 (intermediate test). This is to establish whether, to what extent and over what time period, a coating of moisture occurs on the internal optical surfaces.

6.5 Procedure for conditioning method 48

6.5.1 Initial and final inspection

The initial and final inspection as described in [6.4.1](#) shall be carried out.

6.5.2 Preliminary test

The preliminary test as described in [6.4.2](#) shall be carried out.

6.5.3 Condition 1

The low-pressure container with the specimen shall be installed directly in the humidity chamber. The humidity chamber shall be set to the climatic conditions of step 2. The pressure appropriate to the required degree of severity shall then be set inside the low-pressure container and maintained for the duration of the exposure time required on step 1. In the changeover to step 2, the ventilation of the low-pressure container shall be performed using the circulated air of the humidity chamber. When the low-pressure container is opened, the specimen shall be maintained for the prescribed exposure time under the climatic conditions in step 2. This procedure is repeated two or five times (three or six cycles).

6.5.4 Conditions 2 and 3

Conditions 2 and 3 shall be performed as described in [6.4.5](#).

6.6 Procedure for conditioning method 49

6.6.1 Initial and final inspection

The initial and final inspection as described in [6.4.1](#) shall be carried out.

6.6.2 Preliminary test

The preliminary test as described in [6.4.2](#) shall be carried out. The specimen shall be evacuated after reaching the test temperature in condition 1. After the prescribed exposure time, the specimen shall be sealed and stored under the same climatic conditions for the duration of the exposure time as that prescribed for condition 2.

6.6.3 Conditions 3 and 4

Conditions 3 and 4 shall be performed as described in [6.4.5](#) for conditions 2 and 3.

6.7 Procedure for conditioning method 50

To achieve the test temperature, cooling shall be started before the pressure is reduced. The specimen shall have reached the specified test temperature before the test pressure is adjusted. Thermally active specimens shall be subjected to the test temperature until the temperature of the specimen changes not more than 1 K/h during constant test chamber temperature. Then, pressure reduction shall be started. Intrinsic heating of the specimen during this procedure shall be admissible.

The period of conditioning shall start when all parts of the specimen have reached a temperature within 3 K of the test chamber temperature and the specified pressure has been reached.

After completion of conditioning, condensed moisture or hoarfrost shall form on the specimen during pressure rise, as specified in the relevant specification. There are two methods of generating the formation of condensed moisture or hoarfrost on the specimen. One of the two methods described below shall be specified in the relevant specification.

- a) Production of hoarfrost under low pressure conditions. Within the temperature range -20 °C to -10 °C and in the low pressure range from 400 hPa, water vapour is injected into the test chamber while heating is in process.
- b) Production of hoarfrost under standard pressure conditions.

During heating, the pressure within the test chamber is adjusted to standard ambient pressure while the temperature is maintained between -20 °C and -10 °C . Moisture condenses and freezes on the

specimen because of its low temperature. When hoarfrost is present, specimens that do not develop inherent heating shall be prevented from drying out during the final test.

The temperature shall be measured in the test chamber and on the specimen. The location of the temperature sensor on the specimen shall be specified in the relevant specification. The location of the temperature sensor for measuring the chamber air temperature shall be noted in the test report.

6.8 Procedure for conditioning method 51

To achieve the test temperature, cooling shall be started before the pressure is reduced. The specimen shall have reached the specified test temperature before the test pressure is adjusted. Thermally active specimens shall be subjected to the test temperature until the temperature of the specimen changes not more than 1 K/h during constant test chamber temperature. Then, pressure reduction shall be started. Intrinsic heating of the specimen during this procedure shall be admissible.

The period of conditioning shall start when all parts of the specimen have reached a temperature within 3 K of the test chamber temperature and the specified pressure has been reached.

After completion of conditioning, the rise in pressure is initiated simultaneously to the heating of the test chamber to ambient temperature. When the pressure is rising, no condensation shall occur on the specimen. Ways of preventing this are either the use of repurified nitrogen or dry air for the ventilation of the test chamber or radiant heating of the specimen.

The temperature shall be measured in the test chamber and on the specimen. The location of the temperature sensor on the specimen shall be specified in the relevant specification. The location of the temperature sensor for measuring the chamber air temperature shall be noted in the test report.

7 Environmental test code

The environmental test code shall be as defined in ISO 9022-1, giving a reference to this document (ISO 9022-23) and the codes for the conditioning method chosen, the degree of severity, and the state of operation.

EXAMPLE The environmental test of optical instruments for resistance to low ambient pressure combined with ambient temperature, conditioning method 45, degree of severity 02, and state of operation 2 is identified as:

Environmental test ISO 9022-45-02-2

8 Specification

The relevant specification shall contain the following details:

- a) the environmental test code;
- b) the number of specimens;
- c) the location and the number of the temperature measuring points;
- d) the preconditioning in general and for conditioning method 47, taking account of [6.4.3](#);
- e) the type and scope of initial test in general and for conditioning methods 47 to 49, taking account of [6.4.1](#);
- f) the period of operation for state of operation 2;
- g) the type and scope of intermediate test for state of operation 2 in general and for conditioning method 47, taking account of [6.4.5](#);
- h) the recovery;

- i) the type and scope of final test in general and for conditioning methods 47 to 49, taking account of [6.4.1](#);
- j) for conditioning method 50, the time of first hoarfrost formation and the method of generation;
- k) the criteria for evaluation, e.g. duration of moisture deposition, nature, and extent of any changes occurring on optical surfaces;
- l) the type and scope of test report.

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