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**Metallic materials — Instrumented  
indentation test for hardness and materials  
parameters —**

**Part 1:  
Test method**

*Matériaux métalliques — Essai de pénétration instrumenté pour la  
détermination de la dureté et de paramètres des matériaux —*

*Partie 1: Méthode d'essai*



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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.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. 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 14577 may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 14577-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 164, *Mechanical testing of metals*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Hardness testing*.

ISO 14577 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Metallic materials — Instrumented indentation test for hardness and materials parameters*:

- *Part 1: Test method*
- *Part 2: Verification and calibration of testing machines*
- *Part 3: Calibration of reference blocks*

Annexes A, C and E form a normative part of this part of ISO 14577. Annexes B, D and F are for information only.

## Introduction

Hardness has typically been defined as the resistance of a material to permanent penetration by another harder material. The results obtained when performing Rockwell, Vickers and Brinell tests are determined after the test force has been removed. Therefore, the effect of elastic deformation under the indenter has been ignored.

ISO 14577 has been prepared to enable the user to evaluate the indentation of materials by considering both the force and displacement during plastic and elastic deformation. By monitoring the complete cycle of increasing and removal of the test force, hardness values equivalent to traditional hardness values can be determined. More significantly, additional properties of the material, such as its indentation modulus and elasto-plastic hardness, can also be determined. All these values can be calculated without the need to measure the indent optically.

ISO 14577 has been written to allow a wide variety of post test data analysis.

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# Metallic materials — Instrumented indentation test for hardness and materials parameters —

## Part 1: Test method

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 14577 specifies the method of instrumented indentation test for determination of hardness and other materials parameters for the three ranges given in Table 1.

**Table 1 — Ranges of application**

Macro range	Micro range	Nano range <sup>a</sup>
$2 \text{ N} \leq F \leq 30 \text{ kN}$	$2 \text{ N} > F; h > 0,2 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$	$h \leq 0,2 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$
<sup>a</sup> For the nano range the mechanical deformation strongly depends on the real shape of indenter tip and the calculated materials parameters are significantly influenced by the contact area function of the indenter used in the testing machine. Therefore careful calibration of both instrument and indenter shape is required in order to achieve an acceptable reproducibility of the materials parameters determined with different machines.		

The macro and micro range are distinguished by the test forces in relation to the indentation depth.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the micro range has an upper limit given by the test force (2 N) and a lower limit given by the indentation depth of 0,2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

The determination of hardness and other materials parameters is given in annex A.

At high contact pressures, damage to the indenter is possible. For this reason in the macro range, hardmetal indenters are often used. For test pieces with very high hardness and modulus of elasticity the influence of indenter deformation on the test result should be taken into account.

**NOTE** This test method can also be applied to thin metallic and non-metallic coatings and non-metallic materials. In this case the specifications in the relevant standards should be taken into account (see also 6.3).

### 2 Normative references

The following normative documents contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this part of ISO 14577. 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 14577 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 4287, *Geometrical Product Specifications (GPS) — Surface texture: Profile method — Terms, definitions and surface texture parameters*

ISO 14577-2:2002, *Metallic materials — Instrumented indentation test for hardness and materials parameters — Part 2: Verification and calibration of testing machines*

ISO Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement (GUM)<sup>1)</sup>

### 3 Symbols and designations

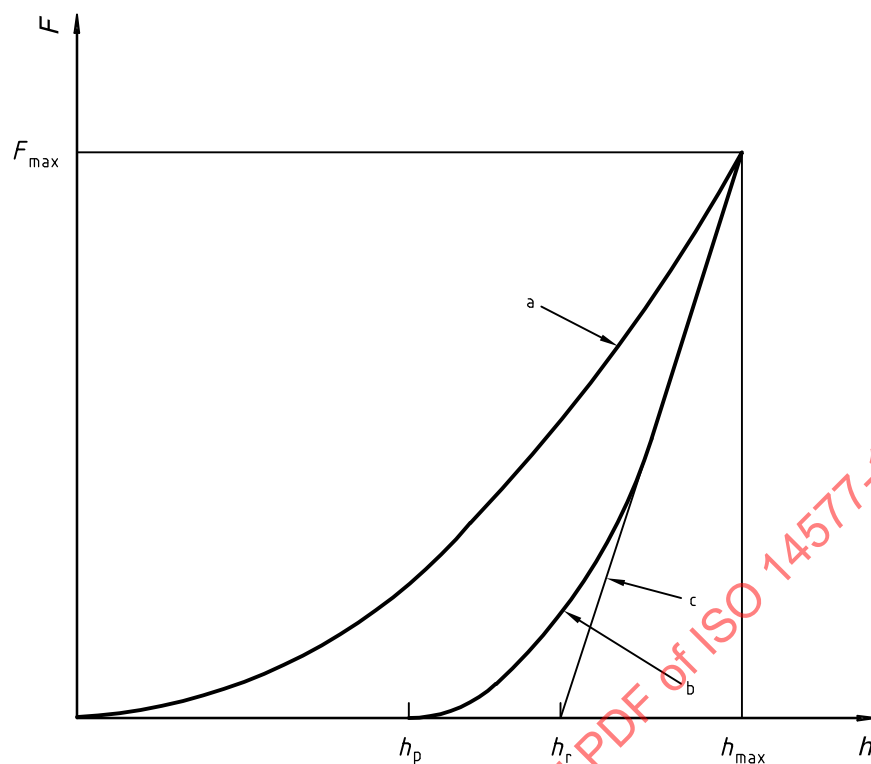
For the purposes of this International Standard, the symbols and designations in Table 2 shall be applied (see also Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Table 2 — Symbols and designations

Symbol	Designation	Unit
$A_p(h_c)$	Projected area of contact of the indenter at distance $h_c$ from the tip	mm <sup>2</sup>
$A_s(h)$	Surface area of the indenter at distance $h$ from the tip	mm <sup>2</sup>
$C_{IT}$	Indentation creep	%
$E_{IT}$	Indentation modulus	N/mm <sup>2</sup>
$F$	Test force	N
$F_{max}$	Maximum test force	N
$h$	Indentation depth under applied test force	mm
$h_c$	Depth of the contact of the indenter with the test piece at $F_{max}$	mm
$h_{max}$	Maximum indentation depth at $F_{max}$	mm
$h_p$	Permanent indentation depth after removal of the test force	mm
$h_r$	Point of intersection of the tangent c to curve b at $F_{max}$ with the indentation depth-axis (see Figure 1)	mm
$H_{IT}$	Indentation hardness	N/mm <sup>2</sup>
HM	Martens hardness	N/mm <sup>2</sup>
HM <sub>s</sub>	Martens hardness, determined from the slope of the increasing force/indentation depth curve	N/mm <sup>2</sup>
$r$	Radius of spherical indenter	mm
$R_{IT}$	Indentation relaxation	%
$W_{elast}$	Elastic reverse deformation work of indentation	N·m
$W_{total}$	Total mechanical work of indentation	N·m
$\alpha$	Angle, specific to the shape of the pyramidal indenter	°
$\eta_{IT}$	Relation $W_{elast}/W_{total}$	%
NOTE 1 To avoid very long numbers the use of multiples or sub-multiples of the units is permitted.		
NOTE 2 1 N/mm <sup>2</sup> = 1 MPa.		

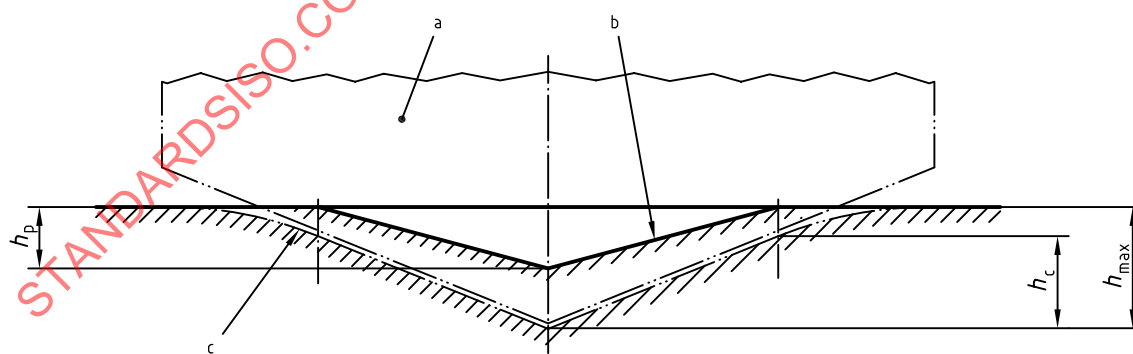
1) Published in 1993; corrected and reprinted in 1995.





- a Application of the test force.
- b Removal of the test force.
- c Tangent to curve b at  $F_{\max}$ .

**Figure 1 — Schematic representation of test procedure**



- a Indenter.
- b Surface of residual plastic indentation in test piece.
- c Surface of test piece at maximum indentation depth and test force.

**Figure 2 — Schematic representation of cross section of indentation**

## 4 Principle

The continuous monitoring of the force and the depth of indentation can permit the determination of hardness and material properties (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). An indenter consisting of a material harder than the material under test with the following shapes and materials can be used:

- a) diamond indenter shaped as an orthogonal pyramid with a square base and with an angle  $\alpha = 136^\circ$  between the opposite faces at the vertex (Vickers pyramid, see Figure A.1);
- b) diamond pyramid with triangular base (e. g. Berkovich pyramid, see Figure A.1);
- c) hardmetal ball (especially for the determination of the elastic behaviour of materials);
- d) diamond spherical indenter.

This part of ISO 14577 does not preclude the use of other indenter geometries, however, care should be taken in interpreting the results obtained with such indenters. Other materials like sapphire may also be used.

**NOTE** Due to the crystal structure of diamond, indenters that are intended to be spherical are often polyhedrons and have no ideal spherical shape.

The test procedure can either be force-controlled or displacement-controlled. The test force  $F$ , the corresponding indentation depth  $h$  and time are recorded during the whole test procedure. The result of the test is the data set of the test force and the relevant indentation depth as a function of time (see Figure 1 and annex B).

For a reproducible determination of the force and corresponding indentation depth, the zero point for the force/indentation depth measurement shall be assigned individually for each test (see 7.3).

Where time-dependent effects are being measured:

- a) using the force-controlled method, the test force is kept constant over a specified period and the change of the indentation depth is measured as a function of the holding time of the test force (see Figures A.3 and B.1);
- b) using the indentation depth controlled method the indentation depth is kept constant over a specified period and the change of the test force is measured as a function of the holding time of the indentation depth (see Figures A.4 and B.2).

The two kinds of control mentioned give essentially different results in the segments b of the curves in Figures B.1a) and B.2b).

## 5 Testing machine

**5.1** The testing machine shall have the capability of applying predetermined test forces within the required scope and shall fulfill the requirements of ISO 14577-2.

**5.2** The testing machine shall have the capability of measuring and reporting applied force, indentation displacement and time, throughout the testing cycle.

**5.3** The testing machine shall have the capability of compensating for the machine compliance and of utilizing the appropriate indenter area function (see annex C in this document and 4.5 and 4.6 of ISO 14577-2:2002).

**5.4** Indenters for use with testing machines may have various shapes, as specified in ISO 14577-2 (For further information on diamond indenters see annex D).

**5.5** The testing machine shall maintain its calibration over the testing machine's usual operating temperature range.

The testing machine shall operate at a temperature within the permissible range specified in 7.1 and shall maintain its calibration within the limits prescribed in 4.4.3 of ISO 14577-2:2002.

## 6 Test piece

**6.1** The test shall be carried out on a region of the test surface that allows the determination of the force/indentation depth curve for the respective indentation range within the required uncertainty. The contact area shall be free of fluids or lubricants except where this is essential for the performance of the test. This shall be described in detail in the test report. Care shall be taken that extraneous matter (e.g. dust particles) is not contained in the contact area.

For an explanation concerning the influence of the test piece roughness on the uncertainty of the results, see annex E. Surface finish has a significant influence on the test results.

The test surfaces shall be normal to the test force direction.

Tilt should be included in the uncertainty calculation. Typically test surface tilt is less than 1°.

**6.2** Preparation of the test surface shall be carried out in such a way that any alteration of the surface hardness (e.g. due to heat or cold-working) is minimized.

Due to the small indentation depths in the micro and nano range, special precautions shall be taken during the test piece preparation. A polishing process that is suitable for particular materials shall be used (e.g. an electropolishing process).

**6.3** The test piece thickness shall be large enough (or indentation depth small enough) such that the test result is not influenced by the test piece support. The test piece thickness should be at least  $10 \times$  the indentation depth or  $3 \times$  the indentation diameter (see 7.7), whichever is greater.

When testing coatings, the coating thickness should be considered to be the test piece thickness.

**NOTE** The above are empirically based limits. The exact limits of influence of support on test piece will depend on the geometry of the indenter used and the materials properties of the test piece and support.

## 7 Procedure

**7.1** The temperature of the test shall be recorded. Typically, tests are carried out in the range of ambient temperatures between 10 °C and 35 °C.

The temperature stability during a test is more important than the actual test temperature. Any calibration correction applied shall be reported along with the additional calibration uncertainty. It is recommended that tests, particularly in the nano and micro ranges, be performed in controlled conditions, in the range  $(23 \pm 5)$  °C and less than 50 % relative humidity.

The individual test, however, shall be carried out at stable temperature conditions because of the requirement of high depth measuring accuracy. This means that:

- the test pieces shall have reached the ambient temperature before testing;
- the testing machine shall have reached a stable working temperature (operating manual should be consulted);
- other external influences causing temperature changes during individual test have been controlled.

To minimize thermally-induced displacement drift, the temperature of the testing machine shall be adequately maintained over the time period of one testing cycle, or a displacement drift correction shall be measured and applied (see 7.5 of this document and 4.4.3 of ISO 14577-2:2002). The uncertainty in the drift or in the drift correction shall be reported.

**7.2** The test piece shall be firmly supported such that there is no significant increase in the testing machine compliance. The test piece shall either be placed on a support that is rigid in the direction of indentation, or fixed in a suitable test piece holder. The contact surfaces between test piece, support and test piece holder shall be free from extraneous matter which might increase the compliance (reduce the stiffness) of the test piece support.

**7.3** The zero point for the measurement of the force/indentation depth curve shall be assigned individually to each test data set. It represents the first touch of the indenter with the test piece surface. The uncertainty in the zero-point shall be reported. The uncertainty in the assigned zero point shall not exceed 1 % of maximum indentation displacement for the macro and micro ranges. The zero point uncertainty for the nano range may exceed 1 % in which case the value shall be estimated and recorded in the test report.

Sufficient data points shall be recorded during the approach and first 10 % displacement of the increasing force/indentation depth curve, so that zero-point may be assigned with the permitted uncertainty. One of the two following example methods is recommended:

- a) Method 1: The zero-point is calculated by extrapolation of a fitted function (e.g. polynomial 2nd degree). The fit shall be applied to values within the range from zero to not more than 10 % of the maximum indentation depth. The uncertainty of the calculated zero point results from the fit parameters, the fitting function and the length of extrapolation.

The first part of the indentation curve (for instance up to 5 %) may be affected by vibration or other noise. The upper limit to the range of fit should be below the depth at which the contact response changes e.g. due to cracking or plastic yielding.

- b) Method 2: The zero-point is the touch point determined during the first increase of either the test force or the contact stiffness. At this touch point, the step size in force or displacement shall be small enough such that the zero point uncertainty is less than the limit required.

NOTE Typical small force steps values for the macro range are  $10^{-4} F_{\max}$  and for the micro and nano range less than 5  $\mu\text{N}$ .

**7.4** The testing cycle shall be either force-controlled or indentation depth-controlled. The controlled parameters can vary either continuously or step by step. A full description of all parts of the testing cycle shall be stated in the report, including:

- a) the nature of the control (i.e. force or displacement control and whether a stepped or continuous change in the controlled parameters);
- b) the maximum force (or displacement);
- c) the force application (or displacement) rate;
- d) the length and position of each hold period;
- e) the data logging frequency (or number of data points).

NOTE Typical values are: e.g. force application and force removal time 30 s; hold time at maximum force 30 s; hold period to measure thermal drift 60 s at contact or after removal of 90 % of maximum force.

In order to obtain comparable test results the time taken for the test shall be taken into account.

**7.5** The test force shall be applied without shock or vibration that can significantly affect the test results until either the applied test force or the indentation displacement attains the specified value. Force and displacement shall be recorded at the time intervals stated in the report.

During the determination of the touch point of the indenter with the test piece, the approach speed of the indenter should be low in order that the mechanical properties of the surface are not changed by the impact.

For micro range indentations it should not exceed 2  $\mu\text{m/s}$ . Typical micro/nano range approach speeds are 10 nm/s to 20 nm/s or less during final approach.

NOTE At present the exact limit of the approach speed for the macro range is not known. It is recommended that users report the approach speed.

Force/indentation depth/time data sets are only comparable if the same test cycle (profile) is used. The test profile shall be specified in terms of either applied test force or indentation displacement as a function of time. The two most common cycles are:

- a) constant applied test force rate;
- b) constant indentation displacement rate.

The rate of applied test force removal is optional, subject to the requirement that sufficient data points be recorded during applied test force removal for any subsequent analysis.

The measurement drift rate shall be determined for each test cycle. This may be done for the micro and nano range by inserting hold periods after touching or at a convenient point in the applied test force removal procedure (typically at 10 % to 20 % of maximum test force).

In the macro range the measurement drift rate may be inferred from temperature data and knowledge of the instrument's drift response.

The force and depth data should be corrected by use of the measured drift rate.

A hold period at maximum applied test force may also be used to measure and/or ensure completion of time-dependent deformation before removal of applied test force commences.

**7.6** Throughout the test the testing machine shall be protected from shock and vibration, air movements and variations in temperature that can significantly influence the test result.

**7.7** It is important that the test results are not affected by the presence of an interface, free surface or by any plastic deformation introduced by a previous indentation in a series. The effect of any of these depends on the indenter geometry and the materials properties of the test piece. Indentations shall be at least three times their indentation diameter away from interfaces or free surfaces and the minimum distance between indentations shall be at least five times the largest indentation diameter.

The indentation diameter is the in-plane diameter at the surface of the test piece of the circular impression of an indent created by a spherical indenter. For non-circular impressions, the indentation diameter is the diameter of the smallest circle capable of enclosing the indentation. Occasional cracking may occur at the corners of the indentation. When this occurs, the indentation diameter should enclose the crack.

**NOTE** The minimum distances specified are best applicable to ceramic materials and metals such as iron and its alloys. For other materials it is recommended that separations of at least ten indentation diameters be used.

If in doubt, it is recommended that the values from the first indentation are compared with those from subsequent indentations in a series. If there is a significant difference, the indentations may be too close and the distance should be increased. A factor of a two-fold increase is suggested.

## 8 Uncertainty of the results

A complete evaluation of the uncertainty shall be carried out in accordance with ISO GUM.

Uncertainty of the results is a combination of uncertainties from a number of sources. These may be separated into two categories:

- a) Type A uncertainties include:
  - zero point assignment;
  - measurement of force and displacement (including effects of ambient vibrations and magnetic field strength changes);
  - fitting of the force-removal curve;

- thermal drift rate;
- contact area due to surface roughness.
- b) Type B uncertainties include:
  - force, displacement;
  - testing machine compliance;
  - indenter area function calibration values;
  - calibration drift due to uncertainty in temperature of testing machine and time since last calibration;
  - tilt of test surface.

It may not always be possible to quantify all the identified contributions to the random uncertainty. In this case, an estimate of Type A standard uncertainty may be obtained from the statistical analysis of repeated indentations into the test material. Care should be taken that Type B standard uncertainties which might contribute to the Type A standard uncertainty are not counted twice (see clause 4 of GUM:1995).

## 9 Test report

The test report shall include the following information:

- a) reference to this part of ISO 14577, i.e. ISO 14577-1;
- b) all details necessary for identifying the test piece;
- c) material and shape of the indenter and, where used, the detailed area function of the indenter;
- d) testing cycle (control method and full description of the cycle profile); this should include:
  - 1) set point values;
  - 2) rates and times of force or displacement;
  - 3) position and length of hold points;
  - 4) data logging frequency or number of points logged for each section of the cycle;
- e) the result obtained, the total expanded uncertainty and the number of tests;
- f) the method applied for the determination of the zero-point;
- g) all operations not specified by this part of ISO 14577, or regarded as optional;
- h) details of any occurrence which may have affected the results;
- i) temperature of the test;
- j) date and time of test;
- k) analysis methods;
- l) if required, all agreed additional information including determined values from the measured force/indentation depth curve and detailed information about the uncertainty budget.

NOTE It is frequently desirable to describe in the test report, the location of the indentation on the test piece.

## Annex A (normative)

### Materials parameters determined from the force/indentation depth data set

#### A.1 General

Instrumented indentation force/indentation depth data sets may be used to derive a number of materials parameters.

#### A.2 Martens hardness $HM^{2)}$

##### A.2.1 Determination of Martens hardness $HM$

Martens hardness is measured under applied test force. Martens hardness is determined from the values given by the force/indentation depth curve during the increasing of the test force, preferably after reaching the specified test force. Martens hardness includes the plastic and elastic deformation, thus this hardness value can be calculated for all materials.

Martens hardness is defined for both pyramidal indenters shown in Figure A.1. It is not defined for the Knoop indenter or for ball indenters.

Martens hardness is defined as the test force  $F$  divided by  $A_s(h)$  the surface area of the indenter penetrating beyond the zero-point of the contact and is expressed in  $N/mm^2$ .

a) Vickers indenter

$$HM = \frac{F}{A_s(h)} = \frac{F}{26,43 \times h^2}$$

$$A_s(h) = \frac{4 \times \sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\cos^2\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \times h^2$$

b) Berkovich indenter

$$HM = \frac{F}{A_s(h)} = \frac{F}{26,43 \times h^2} \quad (A.1)$$

$$A_s(h) = \frac{3 \times \sqrt{3} \times \tan \alpha}{\cos \alpha} \times h^2 \quad (A.2)$$

For indentation depth  $< 6 \mu m$  the area function of the indenter cannot be assumed to be that of the theoretical shape, since all pointed indenters will have some degree of rounding at the tip and spherically-ended indenters (spherical and conical) are unlikely to have a uniform radius. The determination of the exact area function for a given indenter is particularly important for these indentation depths, but is beneficial for all indentation depths (see 4.2.1 and 4.6 of ISO 14577-2:2002).

For indentation depth  $< 6 \mu m$  the real surface area  $A_s(h)$  shall be used for the calculation, see annex C and [3].

The test forces 1 N; 2,5 N; 5 N and 10 N and their decimal multiples should be chosen for easy comparison of hardness values.

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2) Former designation Universal hardness  $HU$ , see [2].

For certain applications it may be useful to hold the specified test force over a specific time interval. The duration of the hold period of the test force should be documented to an accuracy of 0,5 s. The field of application for Martens hardness is given in Figure A.2.

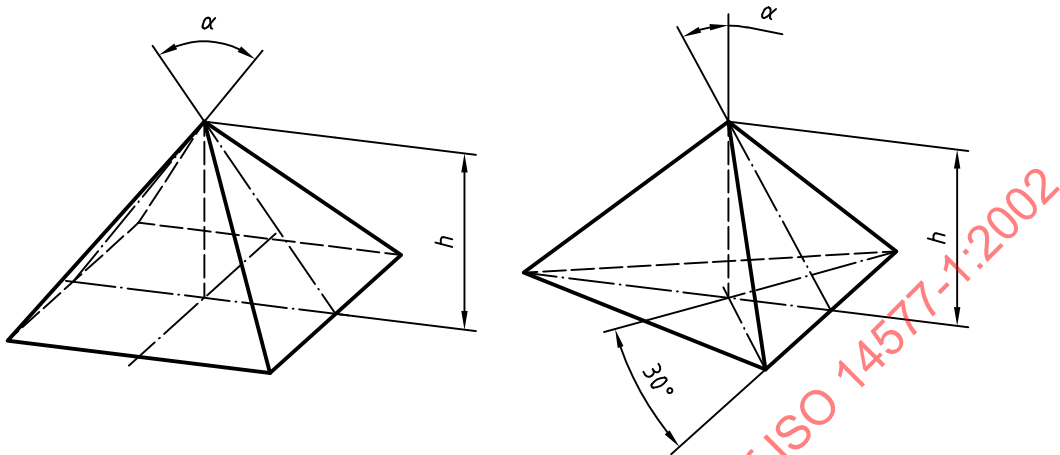
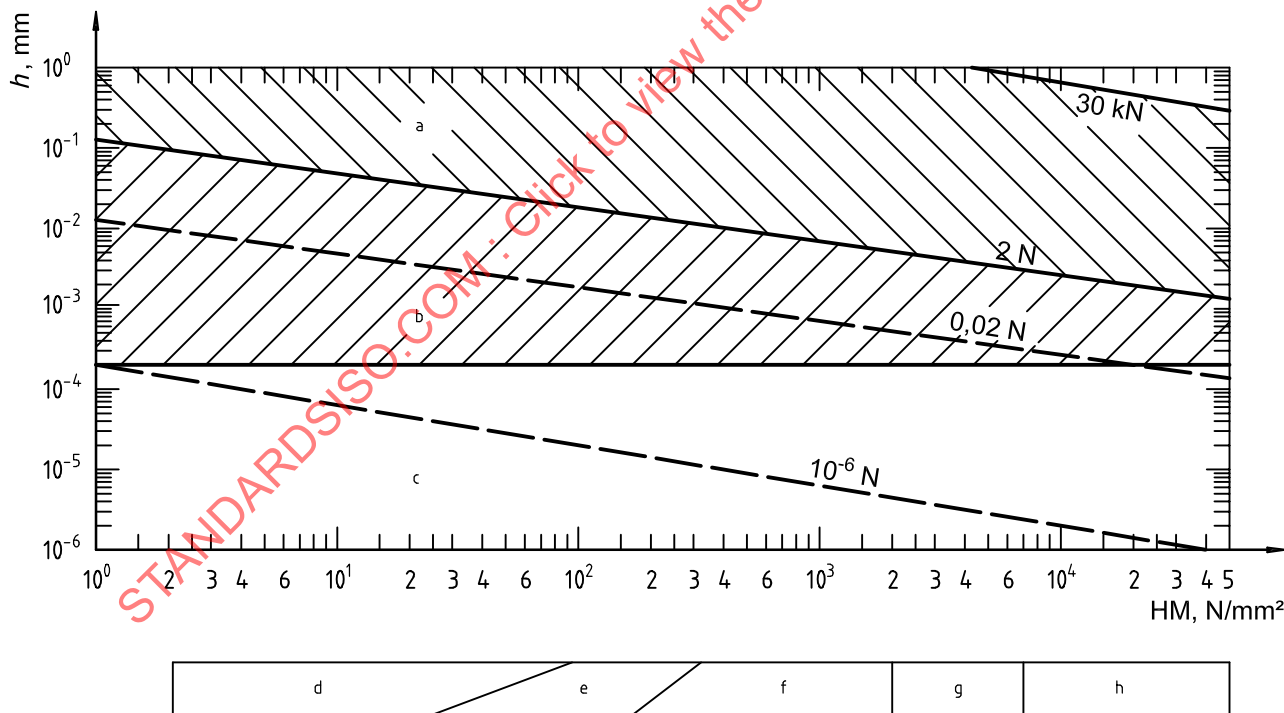


Figure A.1 — Shape of indenters for determination of HM



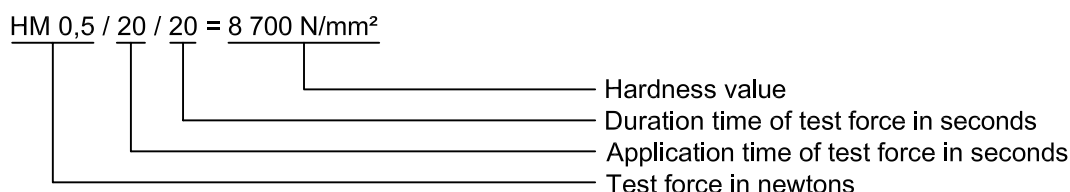
- |   |             |   |                      |
|---|-------------|---|----------------------|
| a | Macro range | e | Plastics             |
| b | Micro range | f | Non-ferrous metals   |
| c | Nano range  | g | Steel                |
| d | Rubber      | h | Hardmetals, ceramics |

Figure A.2 — Relationship between Martens hardness, indentation depth and test force



## A.2.2 Designation of Martens hardness HM

### EXAMPLE



## A.3 Martens hardness, determined from the slope of the increasing force/indentation depth curve, $HM_S$

### A.3.1 Determination of Martens hardness, $HM_S$

The method for the determination of the Martens hardness given by the slope of the increasing force/indentation depth curve, has the advantage of avoiding the zero-point determination for homogeneous materials.

For homogeneous materials (dimension of the inhomogenities in the region of surface is small in relation to the indentation depth) the following equation is at least partly valid (preferring pairs between 50 %  $F_{max}$  and 90 %  $F_{max}$ ) for the force/indentation depth curve:

$$h = m \times \sqrt{F} \quad (A.3)$$

The slope  $m$  can be determined by a linear regression of the equation A.3. In this case it is possible to determine the hardness by the following modified method from the force/indentation depth curve:

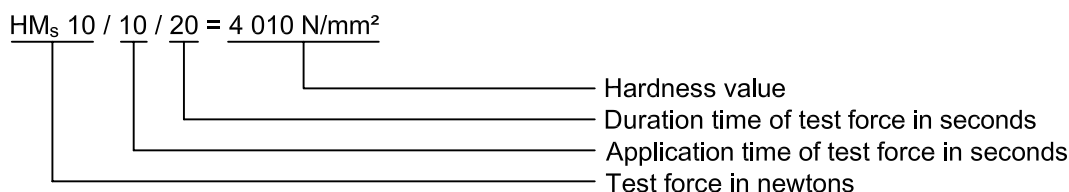
$$HM_S = \frac{1}{m^2 A_S(h) / h^2} \quad (A.4)$$

with

$$\frac{A_S(h)}{h^2} \quad \begin{cases} = 26,43 \text{ for Vickers indenter} \\ = 26,43 \text{ for Berkovich indenter} \end{cases}$$

### A.3.2 Designation of Martens hardness, $HM_s$

#### EXAMPLE



NOTE The method for the determination of the Martens hardness determined from the slope of the increasing force/indentation depth curve has the advantage of independence of the uncertainty of the determination of the zero-point and the test piece roughness. There is also a lower influence of vibration at the location of the testing machine on the test results. For test pieces exhibiting a variation in hardness as a function of indentation depth, the determined hardness values  $HM_s$  will deviate from  $HM$  determined as in A.1.

### A.4 Indentation hardness $H_{IT}$

#### A.4.1 Determination of indentation hardness $H_{IT}$

Indentation hardness  $H_{IT}$  is a measure of the resistance to permanent deformation or damage.

$$H_{IT} = \frac{F_{\max}}{A_p} \quad (A.5)$$

where

$F_{\max}$  is the maximum applied force

$A_p$  is the projected (cross-sectional) area of contact between the indenter and the test piece determined from the force-displacement curve and a knowledge of the area function of the indenter. See 4.6.2 of ISO 14577-2:2002.

Equation (A.5) defines hardness as the maximum applied force, divided by the projected (cross-sectional) contact area of the indenter with the testpiece. This definition is in accord with that generally agreed and first proposed by Meyer<sup>[4]</sup>.

For indentation depth  $< 6 \mu m$  the area function of the indenter cannot be assumed to be that of the theoretical shape, since all pointed indenters will have some degree of rounding at the tip and spherically-ended indenters (spherical and conical) are unlikely to have a uniform radius. The determination of the exact area function for a given indenter is required for indentation depths  $< 6 \mu m$ , but is beneficial for larger indentation depths (see 4.2.1 and 4.6 of ISO 14577-2:2002).

NOTE 1 The area function is normally expressed as a mathematical function relating the projected area to the distance from the tip of the indenter. Where a relatively simple (cubic or polynomial) mathematical function is unable to describe the area function then an estimate may be made either graphically or by using a look-up table. Alternatively a different mathematical function can be used to describe different parts of the indenter or a spline function adopted.

For indentation depth  $> 6 \mu m$  a first approximation to the projected area,  $A_p$ , is given by the theoretical shape of the indenter.

For a Vickers indenter:

$$A_p = 24,50 \times h_c^2$$

For a perfect Berkovich indenter:

$$A_p = 23,96 \times h_c^2$$

For a modified Berkovich indenter (see 4.2.3 of ISO 14577-2:2002):

$$A_p = 24,50 \times h_c^2$$

where

$h_c$  is the depth of contact of the indenter with the test piece calculated as follows:

$$h_c = h_{\max} - \varepsilon (h_{\max} - h_r)$$

Figure 2 schematically shows the different depths monitored during an indentation experiment. The theoretical basis of the method for the determination of contact depth is given in [5]. The contact depth is derived from the force removal curve using the tangent depth,  $h_r$ , and the maximum displacement,  $h_{\max}$ , correcting for elastic displacement of the surface according to Sneddon's analysis<sup>[6]</sup>, where  $\varepsilon$  depends on the indenter geometry (see Table A.1).

**Table A.1 — Correction factor  $\varepsilon$  for different indenter geometries**

Indenter Geometry	$\varepsilon$
Flat punch	1
Conical	$2(\pi - 2)/\pi = 0,73$
Paraboloid of revolution (includes spherical)	3/4
Berkovich, Vickers	3/4

$h_r$  is derived from the force-displacement curve and is the intercept of the tangent to the unloading cycle at  $F_{\max}$  with the displacement axis. Different methods have been used for the determination of  $h_r$  and can be essentially described by two approaches.

- a) Linear Extrapolation Method (see [11]): this assumes that the first portion of the unloading curve is linear and simply extrapolates that linear portion to intercept the displacement axis.

NOTE 2 This method may be a good approximation for ductile materials e. g. aluminium, tungsten.

- b) Power Law Method (see [5]): this recognizes the fact that the first portion of the removal curve of the test curve may not be linear, and can be described by a simple power law relationship:

$$F = K(h - h_p)^m$$

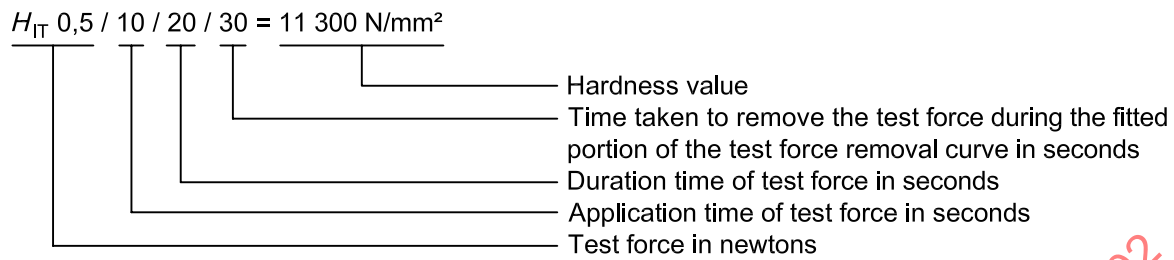
where  $K$  is a constant and  $m$  is an exponent which depends on indenter geometry.

Normally the upper 80 % of the removal curve of the test force is taken for the least-square fitting procedure, but this can be varied according to the "quality" of the unloading curve. If it is necessary to restrict the fit to 50 % or less, the indentation experiment shall be considered to be abnormal and care should be taken in interpretation. The tangent is found by differentiating the unloading curve and evaluating at  $F_{\max}$ . The intercept of this tangent with the displacement axis yields  $h_r$ .

Information concerning the correlation of  $H_{IT}$  to other hardness scales is contained in annex F.

## A.4.2 Designation of indentation hardness $H_{IT}$

EXAMPLE



## A.5 Indentation modulus $E_{IT}$

### A.5.1 Determination of indentation modulus $E_{IT}$

The indentation modulus  $E_{IT}$  can be calculated from the slope of the tangent for the calculation of indentation hardness  $H_{IT}$  (see A.4) and is comparable with the Young's modulus of the material. Significant differences between the indentation modulus  $E_{IT}$  and Young's modulus can occur, however, either pile-up or sink-in are present.

$$E_{IT} = \frac{1 - (v_s)^2}{\frac{1}{E_r} - \frac{1 - (v_i)^2}{E_i}} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$E_r = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2C\sqrt{A_p}} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

where

$v_s$  is the Poisson's ratio of the test piece;

$v_i$  is the Poisson's ratio of the indenter (for diamond 0,07) (e.g., in [7]);

$E_r$  is the reduced modulus of the indentation contact;

$E_i$  is the modulus of the indenter (for diamond  $1,14 \times 10^6\ \text{N/mm}^2$ ) (e.g., in [7]);

$C$  is the compliance of the contact, i.e.  $dh/dF$  of the test force removal curve evaluated at maximum test force (reciprocal of the contact stiffness);

$A_p$  is the projected contact area, value of the indenter area function at the contact depth defined in accordance with 4.6 of ISO 14577-2:2002.

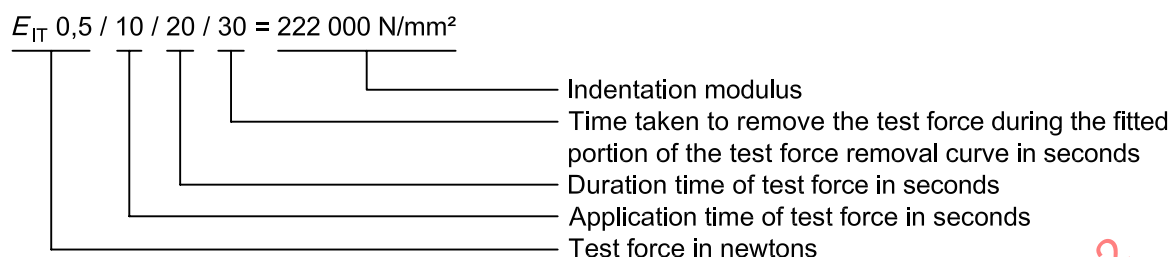
For  $h > 6\ \mu\text{m}$  the following are valid:

$$\begin{aligned} \sqrt{A_p} &= 4,950 \times h_c \text{ for the Vickers indenter and the modified Berkovich indenter} \\ &= 4,895 \times h_c \text{ for the Berkovich indenter} \end{aligned}$$

NOTE Equation (A.7) is based on an assumption of axis symmetric contact area. Correction for pyramidal indenters have been proposed in [15].

### A.5.2 Designation of indentation modulus $E_{IT}$

EXAMPLE



NOTE For some materials a correlation between  $E_{IT}$  and tabular values for the Young's modulus of metals and metal alloys is demonstrated [8], [9].

## A.6 Indentation creep $C_{IT}$

### A.6.1 Determination of indentation creep $C_{IT}$

If the change of the indentation depth is measured with constant test force, a relative change of the indentation depth can be calculated. This is a value for the creep of the material [see Figures B.1 a), B.1 b) and A.3].

$$C_{IT} = \frac{h_2 - h_1}{h_1} \times 100 \quad (\text{A.8})$$

where

$h_1$  is the indentation depth at the time ( $t_1$ ) of reaching the test force (which is kept constant) in millimetres;

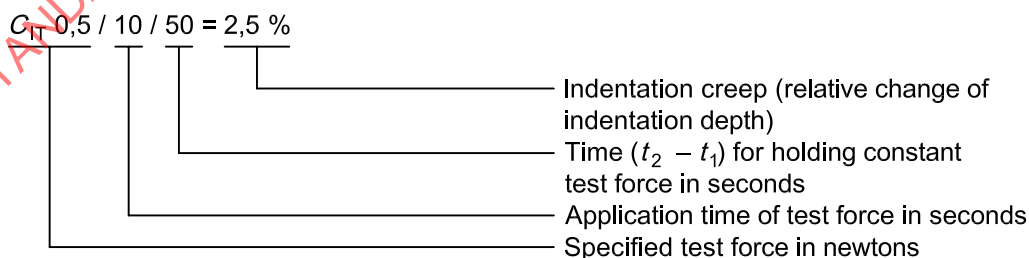
$h_2$  is the indentation depth at time ( $t_2$ ) of holding the constant test force, in millimetres.

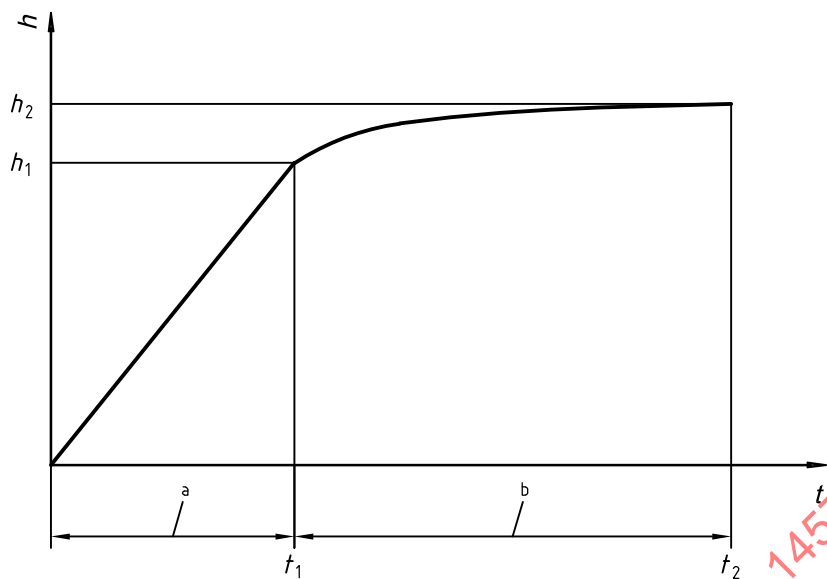
NOTE It should be noted that the creep data can be significantly influenced by thermal drift.

### A.6.2 Designation of indentation creep $C_{IT}$

The relative change of the indentation depth (creep) is denoted by the symbol  $C_{IT}$

EXAMPLE





- a Application of the test force
- b Test force kept constant from  $t_1$  to  $t_2$

Figure A.3 — Expression of indentation creep

A.7 Indentation relaxation  $R_{IT}$

A.7.1 Determination of indentation relaxation  $R_{IT}$

If the change of the test force is measured at a constant indentation depth a relative change of the test force can be calculated. This is a value for the relaxation of the material [see Figures B.2 a), B.2 b) and A.4].

$$R_{IT} = \frac{F_1 - F_2}{F_1} \times 100 \tag{A.9}$$

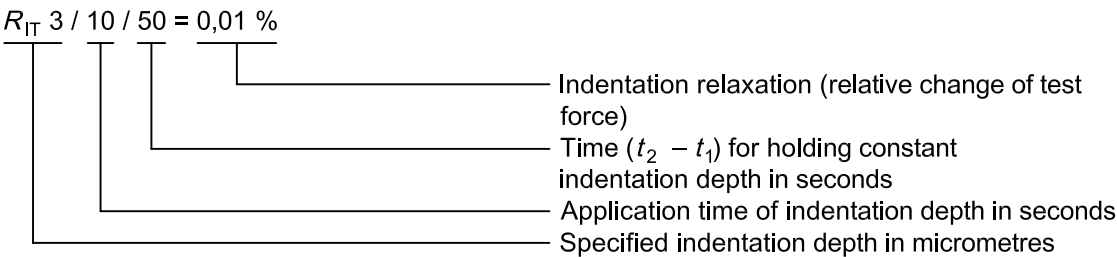
where

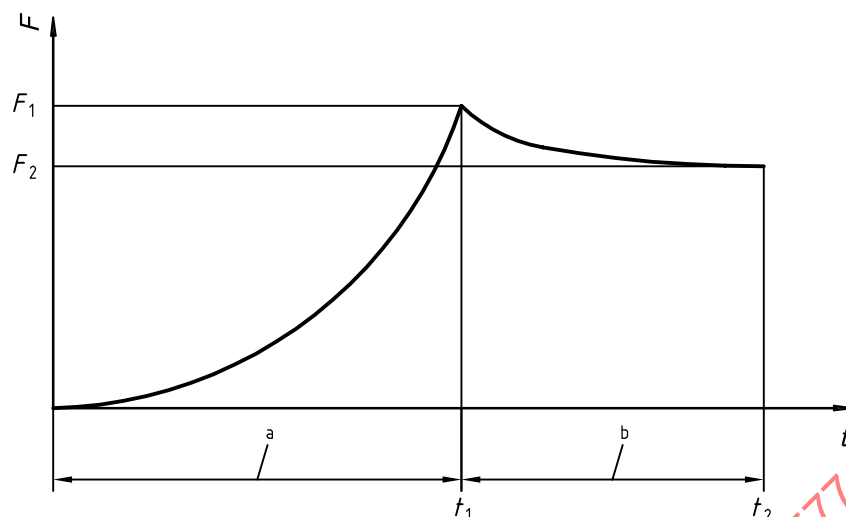
- $F_1$  is the force at reaching the indentation depth which was kept constant, in N;
- $F_2$  is the force after the time during which the indentation depth was kept constant, in N.

A.7.2 Designation of indentation relaxation  $R_{IT}$

The relative change of test force (relaxation) is denoted by the symbol  $R_{IT}$ .

EXAMPLE





- a Application of the indentation depth.  
b Indentation depth kept constant from  $t_1$  to  $t_2$ .

Figure A.4 — Expression of indentation relaxation

## A.8 Plastic and elastic parts of the indentation work

### A.8.1 Determination of plastic and elastic parts of the indentation work

The mechanical work  $W_{\text{total}}$  indicated during the indentation procedure is only partly consumed as plastic deformation work  $W_{\text{plast}}$ . During the removal of the test force the remaining part is set free as work of the elastic reverse deformation  $W_{\text{elast}}$ . According to the definition of the mechanical work as  $W = \int F dh$  both parts appear as different areas in Figure A.5. The relation

$$\eta_{\text{IT}} = \frac{W_{\text{elast}}}{W_{\text{total}}} \times 100 \quad (\text{A.10})$$

contains information which is suitable for characterization of the test piece where

$$W_{\text{total}} = W_{\text{elast}} + W_{\text{plast}}$$

The plastic part  $W_{\text{plast}}/W_{\text{total}}$  follows as

$$100 \% - \eta_{\text{IT}} \quad (\text{A.11})$$

### A.8.2 Designation of elastic part of indentation work $\eta_{\text{IT}}$

EXAMPLE

$$\eta_{\text{IT}} = 0,5 / 10 / 20 = 36,5 \%$$

Elastic part of indentation work  
 Duration time of test force in seconds  
 Application time of test force in seconds  
 Test force in newtons

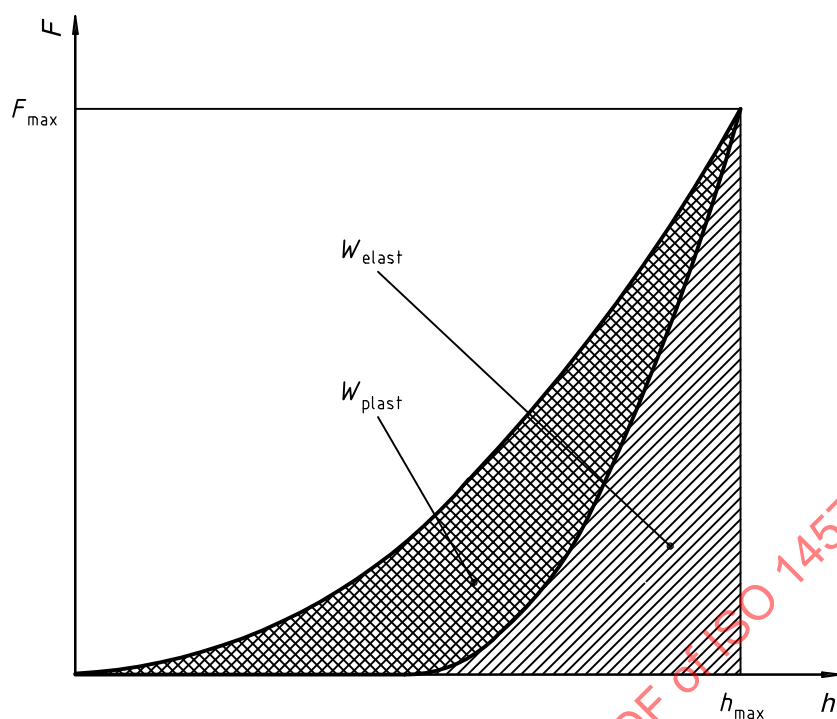
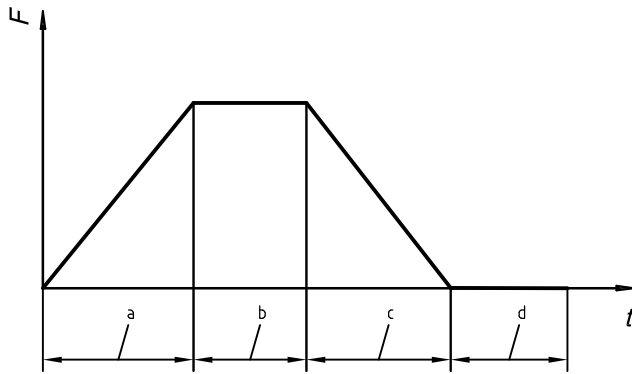


Figure A.5 — Plastic and elastic parts of the indentation work

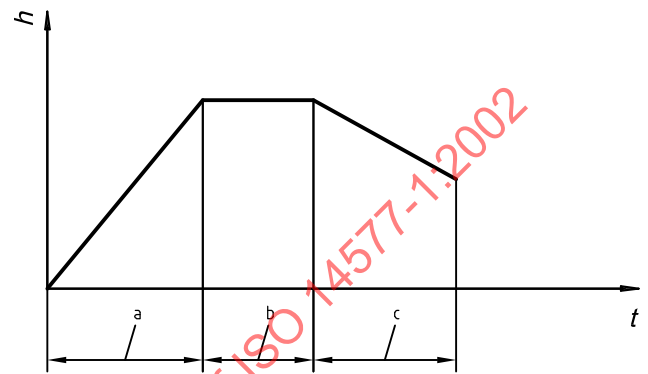


## Annex B (informative)

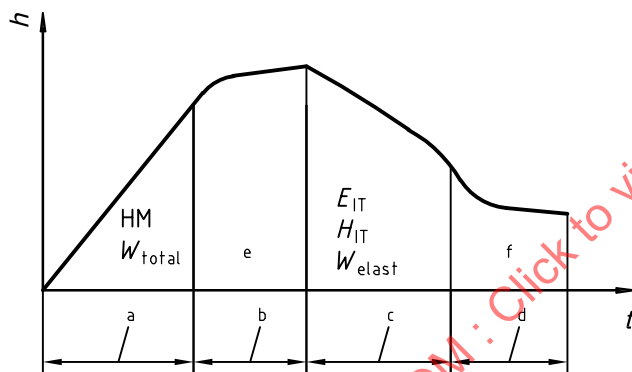
### Types of control use for the indentation process



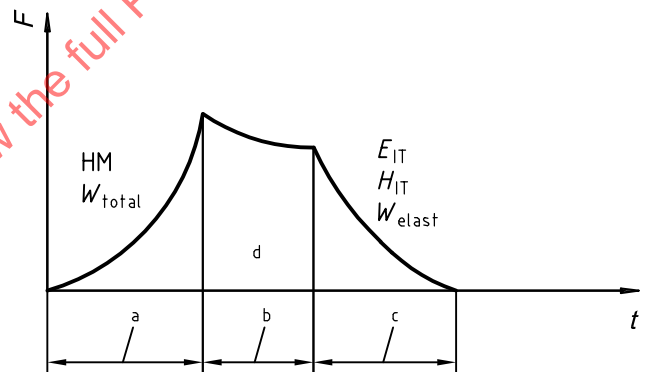
a)



a)



b)



b)

- a Application of test force
- b Maximum test force
- c Removal of test force
- d Test force = 0 N
- e Indentation creep
- f Recovery at zero test force

- a Application of indentation depth
- b Maximum indentation depth
- c Decreasing of indentation depth
- d Relaxation under maximum indentation depth

**Figure B.1 — Schematic representation of the test force controlled test procedure in dependence on time**

**Figure B.2 — Schematic representation of the indentation depth controlled test procedure in dependence on time**