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**Plastics — Poly(methyl methacrylate)  
sheets — Types, dimensions and  
characteristics —**

**Part 1:  
Cast sheets**

*Plastiques — Plaques en poly(méthacrylate de méthyle) — Types,  
dimensions et caractéristiques —*

*Partie 1: Plaques coulées*



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Published in Switzerland

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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 2.

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

ISO 7823-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 11, *Products*.

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 7823-1:1998), which has been technically revised.

ISO 7823 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Plastics — Poly(methyl methacrylate) sheets — Types, dimensions and characteristics*:

- *Part 1: Cast sheets*
- *Part 2: Extruded sheets*
- *Part 3: Continuous cast sheets*

# Plastics — Poly(methyl methacrylate) sheets — Types, dimensions and characteristics —

## Part 1: Cast sheets

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO 7823 specifies requirements for non-modified flat poly(methyl methacrylate) (PMMA) cast sheets (plates) for general-purpose use. The sheets may be colourless or coloured, and may be transparent, translucent or opaque.

The thickness range of the sheets covered by this part of ISO 7823 is 1,5 mm to 25 mm.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application 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 62:1999, *Plastics — Determination of water absorption*

ISO 75-1:—<sup>1)</sup>, *Plastics — Determination of temperature of deflection under load — Part 1: General test method*

ISO 75-2:—<sup>2)</sup>, *Plastics — Determination of temperature of deflection under load — Part 2: Plastics, ebonite and long-fibre-reinforced composites*

ISO 178:2001, *Plastics — Determination of flexural properties*

ISO 179-1:2000, *Plastics — Determination of Charpy impact properties — Part 1: Non-instrumented impact test*

ISO 291:1997, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 306:—<sup>3)</sup>, *Plastics — Thermoplastic materials — Determination of Vicat softening temperature (VST)*

ISO 489:1999, *Plastics — Determination of refractive index*

ISO 527-1:1993, *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Part 1: General principles*

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1) To be published. (Revision of ISO 75-1:1993)

2) To be published. (Revision of ISO 75-2:1993)

3) To be published. (Revision of ISO 306:1994)

ISO 527-2:1993, *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Part 2: Test conditions for moulding and extrusion plastics*

ISO 877:1994, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to direct weathering, to weathering using glass-filtered daylight, and to intensified weathering by daylight using Fresnel mirrors*

ISO 1183-1:—<sup>4)</sup>, *Plastics — Methods for determining the density of non-cellular plastics — Part 1: Immersion method, liquid pycnometer method and titration method*

ISO 1183-2:—<sup>4)</sup>, *Plastics — Methods for determining the density of non-cellular plastics — Part 2: Density gradient column method*

ISO 2039-2:1987, *Plastics — Determination of hardness — Part 2: Rockwell hardness*

ISO 2818:1994, *Plastics — Preparation of test specimens by machining*

ISO 2859-1:1999, *Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes — Part 1: Sampling schemes indexed by acceptance quality limit (AQL) for lot-by-lot inspection*

ISO 4582:1998, *Plastics — Determination of changes in colour and variations in properties after exposure to daylight under glass, natural weathering or laboratory light sources*

ISO 4892-2:1994, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 2: Xenon-arc sources*

ISO 4892-4:1994, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 4: Open-flame carbon-arc lamps*

ISO 11359-2:1999, *Plastics — Thermomechanical analysis (TMA) — Part 2: Determination of coefficient of linear thermal expansion and glass transition temperature*

ISO 13468-1:1996, *Plastics — Determination of the total luminous transmittance of transparent materials — Part 1: Single-beam instrument*

ISO 13468-2:1999, *Plastics — Determination of the total luminous transmittance of transparent materials — Part 2: Double-beam instrument*

ISO 14782:1999, *Plastics — Determination of haze for transparent materials*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1

##### **non-modified cast PMMA sheets**

sheets based on homopolymers of MMA, or copolymers of MMA with acrylic or methacrylic monomers, produced by bulk polymerization in the presence of suitable initiators

#### 3.2

##### **flat PMMA sheets**

sheets with two plane, substantially parallel surfaces

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4) To be published. (Revision in parts of ISO 1183:1987)

## 4 Composition

The amounts of plasticizing ingredients (materials that do not undergo chemical reaction to become a part of the polymer), other monomers and crosslinking agents (materials that produce the links between the chains of polymers) present shall be such that the basic properties are not changed from the values given in Table 3. These amounts are in most cases less than a mass fraction of 3 %.

Other additives, e.g. colorants, UV adsorbers and pigments, may be included to give specific properties.

National environmental legislation and regulations shall be followed regarding additives.

## 5 General requirements

### 5.1 Protective coverings

Unless otherwise agreed upon by the interested parties, the surfaces of the sheet, as delivered, shall be protected by suitable materials, for example kraft paper secured with a water-soluble or pressure-sensitive adhesive, or a polyethylene film, which are readily removable without causing surface contamination or damage.

### 5.2 Appearance

#### 5.2.1 Surface defects

The sheet shall have a smooth surface. There shall be no scratches, marks or other surface defects larger than 3 mm<sup>2</sup> each anywhere in the sheet.

#### 5.2.2 Inclusion defects

There shall be no bubbles, inclusions, cracks or other defects that could adversely affect the performance of the sheet in its intended application which are larger than 3 mm<sup>2</sup> each anywhere in the sheet.

#### 5.2.3 Classification of defects

The area of any defect found in the sheets shall be classified as specified in Table 1. Each defect shall be considered separately.

**Table 1 — Classification of defects**

| Classification | Area of surface defect                 | Area of inclusion defect               |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Negligible     | Less than 1 mm <sup>2</sup>            | Less than 1 mm <sup>2</sup>            |
| Acceptable     | 1 mm <sup>2</sup> to 3 mm <sup>2</sup> | 1 mm <sup>2</sup> to 3 mm <sup>2</sup> |

#### 5.2.4 Distribution of defects

**5.2.4.1** There shall not be a significant number (for the application) of small defects, each of which is defined as negligible in Table 1, within 1 m<sup>2</sup> anywhere in the sheet. What constitutes a significant number shall be agreed between the interested parties.

**5.2.4.2** No defect defined as acceptable in Table 1 shall be within 500 mm of another acceptable defect anywhere in or on the sheet.

### 5.3 Colour

The colour distribution shall be homogeneous, unless otherwise specified. Variations in colour shall be agreed upon between the interested parties.

### 5.4 Dimensions

#### 5.4.1 Length and width

The length and width of the sheet shall be agreed upon between the interested parties. For cut sheets, the tolerances for each sheet shall be as specified in Table 2.

**Table 2 — Tolerances on length and width of cut sheets**

| Length or width<br>mm | Tolerance<br>mm |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Up to 1 000           | +3<br>0         |
| From 1 001 to 2 000   | +6<br>0         |
| From 2 001 to 3 000   | +9<br>0         |
| 3 001 and over        | +0,3 %<br>0     |

#### 5.4.2 Thickness

The thickness tolerance for sheets in the range from 1,5 mm to 25 mm and up to 6 m<sup>2</sup> in area shall be  $\pm (0,4 \text{ mm} + 0,1h)$ , where  $h$  is the nominal sheet thickness in millimetres.

The tolerances apply within each sheet and from sheet to sheet.

#### 5.4.3 Tolerances for other sheet sizes

Tolerances for sheet sizes and thicknesses outside the above ranges shall be agreed upon between the interested parties.

#### 5.4.4 Conditions of measurement

Measurements of dimensions shall be made at room temperature, except that, in cases of dispute, measurements shall be made under standard conditions, as specified in ISO 291. For measurements made under ambient conditions, due allowance shall be made for dimensional changes due to the differences in temperature and relative humidity between test locations.

### 5.5 Basic and other properties

#### 5.5.1 Basic properties

The basic mechanical, thermal and optical properties of sheets shall be as specified in Table 3.

#### 5.5.2 Other properties

Other properties of sheets shall be agreed upon between the interested parties. Examples of, and test methods for, such properties are presented in Table 4.

**Table 3 — Basic properties of PMMA cast sheets — Required values**

| Property                                                               | Unit              | Test method           | Required value | Subclause |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Tensile strength                                                       | MPa               | ISO 527-2/1B/5        | min. 70        | 6.5.2     |
| Tensile strain                                                         | %                 | ISO 527-2/1B/5        | min. 4         | 6.5.2     |
| Modulus of elasticity in tension                                       | MPa               | ISO 527-2/1B/1        | min. 3 000     | 6.5.2     |
| Charpy impact strength (unnotched)                                     | kJ/m <sup>2</sup> | ISO 179-1/1fU         | min. 13        | 6.5.3     |
| Vicat softening temperature                                            | °C                | ISO 306:—, method B50 | min. 105       | 6.6.1     |
| Dimensional change on heating (shrinkage)                              | %                 | Annex A               | max. 2,5       | 6.6.3     |
| Total luminous transmittance <sup>a</sup>                              | %                 | ISO 13468-1           | min. 90        | 6.8.1     |
| Light transmittance at 420 nm (thickness 3 mm) <sup>a</sup>            |                   |                       |                |           |
| — before exposure to xenon lamp                                        | %                 | ISO 13468-2           | min. 90        | 6.8.3     |
| — after exposure to xenon lamp for 1 000 h (ISO 4892-2:1994, method A) | %                 | ISO 13468-2           | min. 88        | 6.8.3     |
| <sup>a</sup> For transparent, colourless material.                     |                   |                       |                |           |

**Table 4 — Other properties of PMMA cast sheets — Typical values**

| Property                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Unit              | Test method                                | Typical value      | Subclause |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Flexural strength                                                                                                                                                                                        | MPa               | ISO 178                                    | 100 to 115         | 6.5.1     |
| Rockwell hardness                                                                                                                                                                                        |                   | ISO 2039-2                                 | 100 to 105         | 6.5.4     |
| Linear expansion coefficient                                                                                                                                                                             | K <sup>-1</sup>   | ISO 11359-2                                | $7 \times 10^{-5}$ | 6.6.4     |
| Temperature of deflection under load                                                                                                                                                                     | °C                | ISO 75-2/A                                 | 95 to 100          | 6.6.2     |
| Haze <sup>a</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                        | %                 | ISO 14782                                  | 0,5 to 1           | 6.8.2     |
| Refractive index, $n_D^{23}$                                                                                                                                                                             |                   | ISO 489:1999, method A                     | 1,49               | 6.8.4     |
| Density <sup>a, b</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                  | g/cm <sup>3</sup> | ISO 1183-1:—, method A or C, or ISO 1183-2 | 1,19               | 6.9.1     |
| Water absorption                                                                                                                                                                                         | %                 | ISO 62:1999, method 1 (24 h, 23 °C)        | 0,5 <sup>c</sup>   | 6.9.2     |
| <sup>a</sup> For transparent, colourless material.<br><sup>b</sup> Coloured sheets may have a higher value.<br><sup>c</sup> Value reported refers to a square specimen of edge 50 mm and thickness 3 mm. |                   |                                            |                    |           |

## 6 Test methods

### 6.1 General

#### 6.1.1 Sampling

The sampling procedure shall be agreed upon between the interested parties. The sampling procedure given in ISO 2859-1 is widely accepted and frequently used. Hence it is recommended.

## 6.1.2 Conditioning and testing atmospheres

Conditioning of specimens (48 h) and tests shall be carried out in accordance with ISO 291 at  $23\text{ °C} \pm 2\text{ °C}$  and  $(50 \pm 5)\%$  relative humidity, except for the Vicat softening temperature, temperature of deflection under load and dimensional change on heating (shrinkage) (see 6.6.1, 6.6.2 and 6.6.3).

## 6.1.3 Preparation of test specimens

Specimens shall be prepared in accordance with the procedures specified in ISO 2818, wherever applicable.

When it is necessary to machine the sheet to the thickness required for a particular test method, one original surface shall be left intact.

## 6.1.4 Specimen thickness

When the sheet has a thickness less than that required for the specimens in a particular test method, specimens having the thickness of the sheet shall be used.

## 6.2 Appearance

Defects and their distribution shall be evaluated by inspecting the sheet illuminated by daylight or by a daylight-type fluorescent lamp with a colour temperature of  $6\,500\text{ K} \pm 650\text{ K}$  and a power rating of not less than 40 W.

## 6.3 Colour

Colour differences between a reference material (standard) and the test sample shall be determined by methods agreed upon by the interested parties.

## 6.4 Dimensions

**6.4.1** The length and width shall be measured to the nearest 1,0 mm, in accordance with 5.4.4, using a graduated rule.

**6.4.2** The thickness shall be measured to the nearest 0,05 mm, in accordance with 5.4.4, using a calibrated micrometer or dial gauge, or an ultrasonic probe. Measurements shall be carried out at not less than 100 mm from the sheet edge.

## 6.5 Mechanical properties

**6.5.1** The flexural properties shall be determined in accordance with ISO 178, using, when possible, a 4-mm-thick specimen. The original surface shall be put under tension whenever the specimen has been machined to the specified dimensions.

**6.5.2** The tensile properties shall be determined in accordance with ISO 527-1 and ISO 527-2, using type 1B specimens. The test speed for tensile strength and for tensile strain at break shall be  $5\text{ mm/min} \pm 1\text{ mm/min}$  and for the modulus of elasticity in tension  $1\text{ mm/min} \pm 0,2\text{ mm/min}$ .

**6.5.3** The Charpy impact strength shall be determined in accordance with ISO 179-1/1fU, using the standard unnotched bar (dimensions of the specimen  $80\text{ mm} \times 10\text{ mm} \times 4\text{ mm}$ ). The pendulum shall strike the surface that is opposite to the original one if the specimen has been machined to the specified dimensions.

**6.5.4** The Rockwell hardness shall be determined in accordance with ISO 2039-2, scale M, on the original cast surface.

## 6.6 Thermal properties

**6.6.1** The Vicat softening temperature shall be determined in accordance with ISO 306:—, method B50, using the original cast surface. The rate of heating shall be  $50\text{ °C/h} \pm 5\text{ °C/h}$ . Before the test, the specimens shall be conditioned for 16 h at  $80\text{ °C} \pm 2\text{ °C}$  and cooled to room temperature in a desiccator.

**6.6.2** The temperature of deflection under load shall be determined in accordance with ISO 75-1:— and ISO 75-2:—, method A. Before the test, the specimens shall be conditioned for 16 h at  $80\text{ °C} \pm 2\text{ °C}$  and cooled to room temperature in a desiccator. Measurements shall not be carried out on specimens with a thickness below 3 mm.

**6.6.3** The dimensional change on heating (shrinkage) shall be determined by the method described in Annex A.

**6.6.4** The linear expansion coefficient shall be determined in accordance with ISO 11359-2.

## 6.7 Flammability

The flammability and burning properties shall be determined in accordance with national fire regulations.

## 6.8 Optical properties

**6.8.1** The total luminous transmittance shall be determined using illuminant  $D_{65}$  in accordance with ISO 13468-1 on specimens 1,5 mm to 5 mm thick.

**6.8.2** Haze shall be determined in accordance with ISO 14782 on specimens 1,5 mm to 5 mm thick.

**6.8.3** The light transmittance at 420 nm, before and after exposure for 1 000 h to a xenon lamp in accordance with ISO 4892-2:1994, method A, shall be determined with a spectrometric system in accordance with ISO 13468-2, using a specimen 1,5 mm to 5 mm thick. By agreement between the interested parties, the light transmittance may alternatively be determined after exposure to a carbon-arc lamp (see ISO 4892-4).

**6.8.4** The refractive index shall be determined in accordance with ISO 489:1999, method A.

## 6.9 Other properties

**6.9.1** The density shall be determined in accordance with ISO 1183-1:—, method A or C, or ISO 1183-2.

**6.9.2** The water absorption shall be determined in accordance with ISO 62:1999, method 1 (24 h at  $23\text{ °C}$ ).

**6.9.3** The natural-weathering performance shall be determined in accordance with ISO 877; the resistance to exposure to artificial light shall be determined in accordance with ISO 4892-2:1994, method A. Changes in colour and properties after exposure shall be determined in accordance with ISO 4582. The details of these tests shall be agreed upon between the interested parties.

## 7 Retest and rejection

If any failure occurs, the material may be retested by agreement between the interested parties.