

Paper for steam sterilization paper bags, pouches and reels for medical use

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Packaging and Freight Containers Standards Policy Committee (PKM/-) to Technical Committee PKM/566, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Aluminium Foil Rollers' Association
- British Paper and Board Industry Federation
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Institute of Sterile Services Management
- Medical Sterile Products Association
- Ministry of Defence
- Packaging and Industrial Films Association
- Pira (Research Association for the Paper and Board, Printing and Packaging Industries)
- Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
- Retail Bag Manufacturers' Association
- Sterilisation Packaging Materials Association
- United Kingdom Sugar Industry Association

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Foreword

This revision of BS 6256 has been prepared under the direction of the Packaging and Freight Containers Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes BS 6256:1982 which is withdrawn.

This edition adds a requirement for grammage.

Since no requirement is specified in this standard for dimensions it is essential that the purchaser state in his order the width of paper required.

With effect from November 1999 the normative text of this standard was superseded by that of BS EN 868-3:1999. However it has proved necessary to retain BS 6256:1989 as a current standard for an interim period, due to cross-reference to Appendix C of that standard in BS EN 868-1:1997, annex D. This cross-reference regards permissible test methods for the microbial barrier properties of materials: the methylene blue particulate penetration test being one such method.

It should be noted that Appendix C makes reference in turn to BS 2577:1995, itself a withdrawn standard. Users of BS 6256 requiring a copy of BS 2577:1995 should direct their request to the library of the British Standards Institution at the following address: BSI, 389 Chiswick High Road, London W4 4AL.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 8, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for materials, performance, marking and packaging for paper used in the manufacture of steam sterilization paper bags to BS 6257 and pouches and reels to BS 6871.

NOTE The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Materials and manufacture

2.1 The furnish of the paper shall be bleached chemical wood pulp, free from dirt and from unpleasant odour when dry or wet. Waste paper, other than “broke” of the same furnish, shall not be used (see BS 3203).

2.2 The furnish shall be treated with synthetic resin in order that the paper complies with **3.7** and **3.9**. The paper shall not leave fluff or fibre during normal use.

2.3 The paper shall be supplied on rolls.

2.4 The paper shall be white. No toxic materials or colour shall leach out of the paper.

3 Performance

NOTE A summary of performance requirements and test methods is given in Table 1.

3.1 Grammage

The grammage of the paper shall be not less than 56 g/m² when:

- a) conditioned in accordance with BS 3431 at 23 ± 1 °C and 50 ± 2 % r.h.;
- b) tested in accordance with BS 3432.

3.2 pH of water extract

The pH of water extract of the paper shall be not less than 5 nor greater than 8 when tested in accordance with BS 2924-1.

3.3 Chloride content

The chloride content calculated as sodium chloride (NaCl), of the paper shall be not more than 0.05 % when tested in accordance with BS 2924-4.

3.4 Sulphate content

The sulphate content, calculated as sodium sulphate (Na₂SO₄), of the paper shall be not more than 0.25 % when tested in accordance with BS 2924-3.

3.5 Fluorescence

The paper shall neither exhibit a general fluorescence nor have more than five fluorescence spots each having an axis greater than 1 mm when tested in accordance with Appendix A.

3.6 Bursting strength

The bursting strength of the paper shall be not less than 230 kPa when:

- a) conditioned in accordance with BS 3431 at 23 ± 1 °C and 50 ± 2 % r.h.;
- b) tested in accordance with BS 3137.

3.7 Wet bursting strength

The wet bursting strength of the paper shall be not less than 35 kPa when tested in accordance with BS 2922-1, using an immersion time of 10 min.

3.8 Tensile strength

The tensile strength of the paper shall be not less than 4.67 kN/m in the machine direction and not less than 2.33 kN/m in the cross direction when:

- a) conditioned in accordance with BS 3431 at 23 ± 1 °C and 50 ± 2 % r.h.;
- b) tested in accordance with BS 4415-2, in the atmospheric conditions specified in **3.8a**).