

Hot environments — Analytical determination and interpretation of thermal stress using calculation of required sweat rate

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The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee PH/9, Applied ergonomics, to Subcommittee PH/9/1, Thermal environments, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Industrial Truck Association
- British Occupational Hygiene Society
- British Textile Technology Group
- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
- Chemical Industries Association
- Cold Storage and Distribution Federation
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National foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Subcommittee PH/9/1, and is the English language version of EN 12515:1997, published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN). It is related to ISO 7933:1989, *Hot environments — Analytical determination and interpretation of thermal stress using calculation of required sweat rate*, published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, the EN title page, pages 2 to 26 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

Hot environments — Analytical determination and interpretation of thermal stress using calculation of required sweat rate

(ISO 7933:1989 modified)

Ambiances thermiques chaudes —
Détermination analytique et interprétation de
la contrainte thermique fondées sur le calcul de
la sudation requise
(ISO 7933:1989 modifiée)

Warmes Umgebungsklima — Analytische
Bestimmung und Beurteilung der
Wärmebelastung durch Berechnung der
erforderlich Schweißrate
(ISO 7933:1989 modifiziert)

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CEN

European Committee for Standardization
Comité Européen de Normalisation
Europäisches Komitee für Normung

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Foreword

This European Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 122 "Ergonomics", the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by December 1997, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by December 1997.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard ISO 7933:1989 was approved by CEN as an European Standard with agreed common modifications as given below:

1) Clause "Introduction"

The third paragraph was amended as follows:

"For cases where thermal stress is very high, as detected by the method described in this International Standard, further detailed consideration of the exposed workers is necessary: the types of physiological measurements which can be used will be described in a future standard."

2) Clause 1 "Scope"

The third sentence of paragraph 5 was amended as follows:

"In its present form, this method of assessment is not applicable to cases where special protective clothing is worn, high radiant temperature, high air velocity and saturated clothing."

3) Annex A (informative) Data necessary for the calculation of thermal balance

The following paragraph was added in clause A.6 "Determination of the evaporative resistance, R_{T_e} , in square metres kilopascals per watt":

"The method presented for quantifying the latent heat exchanges is a simple approximation involving vapour transfer through light porous clothing. In some circumstances this will not apply. For example where sweat absorbing clothes become wet and sweat is transported not by vapour but by capillary attraction to the clothing surface. Also body movements and wind can disturb still (saturated) air layers. The effect depends on the air permeability of the fabrics, on design and construction of garments, on type of activity and how clothing is worn. These effects can greatly reduce the restriction to heat transfer caused by clothing and in some situations allow lower sweat rates to achieve body heat balance and significantly longer duration limited exposure times than those calculated from the equations presented in this annex."

4) Annex C (informative) Criteria for thermal stress and limit values for thermal constraint

Paragraph 5 of clause C.2 "Differences between individuals and acclimatization" was amended as follows:

"d) water loss, D_{max} , in watt hours per square metre, and its equivalent in grams for a standard subject with a body surface of 1,8 m².

The recommended maximum values account for a maximum water loss of the body of 4 to 6 % of body mass depending upon whether the subjects are acclimatized or not.

The standard assumes normal rehydration but no account is taken of amount and frequency of drinking and its effectiveness. It is generally agreed that drinking will help, but that it does not totally compensate for the effects of sweat loss. The approach taken in this annex is therefore conservative (see D_{max} values in

Table C.2) where it is assumed that water replaced is not available in the tissues for sweat loss at the skin."

The common modifications mentioned above are marked up in the text of the standard.

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0 Introduction

This European Standard is one of a series intended for use in the estimation of thermal stress in a hot environment.

The method of analytical estimation and interpretation of thermal stress allows the prediction of the physiological effects of work in the heat and the rational determination of actions to be taken to prevent or limit these effects. This method is recommended to be applied either directly to carry out a detailed analysis of hot working conditions, or as a complement to the method based on the WBGT-index (see ISO 7243) when the reference values for this index are exceeded.

For cases where thermal stress is very high, as detected by the method described in this European Standard, further detailed consideration of the exposed workers is necessary: the types of physiological measurements which can be used will be described in a future standard.

1 Scope

This European Standard specifies a method of analytical evaluation and interpretation of the thermal stress experienced by a subject in a hot environment. It describes a method of calculating the heat balance as well as the sweat rate that the human body should produce to maintain this balance in equilibrium: this sweat rate is called the "required sweat rate".

The various terms used in the determination of the required sweat rate show the influence of the different physical parameters of the environment on the thermal stress experienced by the subject. In this way, this European Standard makes it possible to determine which parameter or group of parameters should be modified, and to what extent, in order to reduce the risk of physiological strain.

The main objectives of this European Standard are

- a) the evaluation of the thermal stress in conditions likely to lead to excessive core temperature increase or water loss for the standard subject;
- b) the determination of the modifications to be brought to the work situation in order to reduce or exclude these effects;
- c) the determination of the maximum allowable exposure times required to limit physiological strain to an acceptable value.

This European Standard does not predict the physiological response of individual subjects, but only considers standard subjects in good health and fit for the work they perform.

The method of computation and interpretation of thermal balance is based on the latest scientific information. Future improvements concerning the calculation of the different terms of the heat balance equation, or its interpretation, will be taken into account when they become available. In its present form, this method of assessment is not applicable to cases where special protective clothing is worn, high radiant temperature, high air velocity and saturated clothing.

2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this International Standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this International Standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards listed below. Members of IEC and ISO maintain registers of currently valid International Standards.

ISO 7243:1989, *Hot environments — Estimation of the heat stress on working man, based on the WBGT-index (wet bulb globe temperature)*.

ISO 7726:1985, *Thermal environments — Instruments and methods for measuring physical quantities*.

3 Principles of the method of evaluation

The method of evaluation and interpretation calculates the thermal balance of the body from

- a) the typical parameters of the thermal environment:
 - air temperature, t_a (in degrees Celsius);
 - mean radiant temperature, t_r (in degrees Celsius);
 - partial vapour pressure, p_a (in kilopascals);
 - air velocity, v_a (in metres per second).

(These parameters are measured according to the specifications of ISO 7726.)

- b) the mean characteristics of the subjects exposed to this working situation:
 - metabolic heat production, M (in watts per square metre);
 - clothing thermal insulation, I_{cl} (in square metres kelvins per watt).

Clause 4 describes the principles of the calculation of the different heat exchanges occurring in the thermal balance equation, as well as those of the sweat loss necessary for the maintenance of the thermal equilibrium of the body. The mathematical expressions for these calculations are shown in Annex A.

Clause 5 describes the method of interpretation which leads to the determination of the predicted sweat rate and the maximum allowable exposure times and work-rest regimens to achieve the predicted sweat rate. This determination is based on two criteria: maximum body core temperature increase and maximum body water loss. Limit values for these criteria are shown in Annex C.

The precision with which the predicted sweat rate and the exposure times are estimated is a function of the model (i.e. of the expressions proposed in Annex A) and the limit values which are adopted. It is also a function of the accuracy of measurement of the physical parameters and of the precision with which the metabolic rate and the thermal insulation of the clothing are estimated.

4 Main steps of the calculation

4.1 General heat balance equation

The thermal balance equation of the body may be written as

$$M - W = C_{\text{res}} + E_{\text{res}} + K + C + R + E + S \quad \dots(1)$$

This equation expresses that the internal heat production of the body, which corresponds to the metabolic power (M) minus the effective mechanical power (W) is balanced by the heat exchanges in the respiratory tract by convection (C_{res}) and evaporation (E_{res}), as well as by the heat exchanges on the skin by conduction (K), convection (C), radiation (R), and evaporation (E), and by the eventual balance, heat storage (S), accumulating in the body. The different terms of this equation are successively reviewed in terms of the principles of calculation (detailed expressions are shown in Annex A).

4.1.1 Metabolic power (M , in watts per square metre)

M is the metabolic power. Its estimation or measurement will be described in a future International Standard.

4.1.2 Effective mechanical power (W , in watts per square metre)

W is the effective mechanical power. In most industrial situations this is small and can be neglected.

4.1.3 Heat flow by respiratory convection (C_{res} , in watts per square metre)

The heat flow by respiratory evaporation may be expressed, in principle, by the relation

$$C_{\text{res}} = c_p \dot{V}(t_{\text{ex}} - t_a)/A_{\text{Du}} \quad \dots(2)$$

where

c_p is the specific heat of dry air at constant pressure, in joules per kilogram of dry air;

$\dot{V}$ is the respiratory ventilation rate, in kilograms of air per second;

t_{ex} is the expired air temperature, in degrees Celsius;

t_a is the air temperature, in degrees Celsius;

A_{Du} is the body surface, in square metres.

4.1.4 Heat flow by respiratory evaporation (E_{res} , in watts per square metre)

The heat flow by respiratory evaporation may be expressed, in principle, by the relation

$$E_{\text{res}} = c_e \dot{V}(W_{\text{ex}} - W_a)/A_{\text{Du}} \quad \dots(3)$$

where

c_e is the water evaporation latent heat, in joules per kilogram;

W_{ex} is the humidity ratio for the expired air, in kilograms of water per kilogram of dry air;

W_a is the humidity ratio for the inhaled air, in kilograms of water per kilogram of dry air;

$\dot{V}$ and A_{Du} are as defined in equation (2).

4.1.5 Heat flow by conduction (K , in watts per square metre)

In practice, the heat flow by thermal conduction through the body surfaces in contact with solid objects may be quantitatively assimilated into the heat losses by convection and radiation which would occur if these surfaces were not in contact with any solid body. In this way, the heat flow by conduction is not directly taken into account.

4.1.6 Heat flow by convection at the skin surface (C , in watts per square metre)

The heat flow by convection at the skin surface may be expressed by the equation

$$C = h_c \cdot F_{\text{cl}} (\dot{t}_{\text{sk}} - t_a) \quad \dots(4)$$

where

h_c is the convective heat transfer coefficient, in watts per square metre kelvin;

F_{cl} is the reduction factor for sensible heat exchange due to the wearing of clothes (dimensionless);