



BSI Standards Publication

Plastics — Determination of tensile properties

Part 4: Test conditions for isotropic and orthotropic
fibre-reinforced plastic composites

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN ISO 527-4:2021. It is identical to ISO 527-4:2021. It supersedes BS EN ISO 527-4:1997, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PRI/42, Fibre reinforced thermosetting plastics and prepregs.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Partie 4 : Conditions d'essai pour les composites
plastiques renforcés de fibres isotropes et orthotropes
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4: Prüfbedingungen für isotrop und anisotrop
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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO 527-4:2021) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61 "Plastics" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/TC 249 "Plastics" the secretariat of which is held by NBN.

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2022, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2022.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN ISO 527-4:1997.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

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Endorsement notice

The text of ISO 527-4:2021, Corrected version 2022-02 has been approved by CEN as EN ISO 527-4:2021 without any modification.

Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principle	5
5 Apparatus	5
6 Test specimens	5
6.1 Shape and dimensions	5
6.2 Preparation of specimens	9
6.2.1 General	9
6.2.2 End tabs for type 3 specimens	9
6.2.3 Applications of end tabs for type 3 specimens	9
6.3 Gauge marks	9
6.4 Checking the specimens	10
6.5 Anisotropy	10
7 Number of specimens	10
8 Conditioning	10
9 Procedure	10
9.1 Test atmosphere	10
9.2 Measurement of specimen dimensions	10
9.3 Clamping	11
9.4 Prestresses	11
9.5 Setting of extensometers and strain gauges and placing of gauge marks	11
9.6 Speed of testing	11
9.6.1 For type 1B test specimens	11
9.6.2 For type 2, type 3 and type 4 test specimens	11
9.7 Recording of data	11
10 Calculation and expression of results	11
10.1 Calculation of all properties for parallel sided specimens	11
10.2 Failure location related calculation of tensile strength for type 4 specimens	12
11 Precision	12
12 Test report	12
Annex A (informative) Alignment of specimens	13
Annex B (informative) Testing with tapered tensile specimen geometry without tabs (type 4)	15
Annex C (informative) Unbonded tabs or gripping condition without tabs using fine grip face	18
Annex D (normative) Specimen preparation for type 2 and type 3	21
Annex E (normative) Failure location related calculation of tensile strength for type 4 specimens	23
Bibliography	27

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).

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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 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Composites and reinforcement fibres*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 249, *Plastics*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 527-4:1997), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

- specimen type 4 (tapered tensile specimen) especially for testing of multidirectional, continuous fibre-reinforced thermoplastic composites has been implemented;
- gripping force or pressure (e.g. via torque or manometer depending on gripping system used) has been adjusted;
- the following new annexes have been added:
 - [Annex C](#) (Unbonded tabs or gripping condition without tabs using fine grip faces),
 - [Annex B](#) (Testing with tapered tensile specimen geometry without tabs), and
 - [Annex E](#) (Failure location related calculation of tensile strength for type 4 specimens).

A list of all parts in the ISO 527 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.

This corrected version of ISO 527-4:2021 incorporates the following corrections:

- In [Annex D](#), references to [Figure A.1](#) has been corrected to [Figure D.1](#).

Introduction

This document introduces a new test specimen, type 4, with a tapered geometry for use without end tabs. The geometry has been developed to overcome difficulties with bonding end-tabbed test specimens, especially when testing materials based on a thermoplastic matrix.

Guidance on gripping, including grip face design, is also added.

Plastics — Determination of tensile properties —

Part 4:

Test conditions for isotropic and orthotropic fibre-reinforced plastic composites

1 Scope

This document specifies the test conditions for the determination of the tensile properties of isotropic and orthotropic fibre-reinforced plastic composites, based upon the general principles given in ISO 527-1.

NOTE 1 Unidirectional reinforced materials are covered by ISO 527-5.

The methods are used to investigate the tensile behaviour of the test specimens and for determining the tensile strength, tensile modulus, Poisson's ratios and other aspects of the tensile stress-strain relationship under the defined conditions.

The test method is suitable for use with the following materials:

- fibre-reinforced thermosetting and thermoplastic composites incorporating non-unidirectional reinforcements such as mats, woven fabrics, woven rovings, chopped strands, combinations of such reinforcements, hybrids, rovings, short or milled fibres or preimpregnated materials (prepregs);

NOTE 2 Injection moulded specimens are covered by ISO 527-2.

- combinations of the above with unidirectional reinforcements and multidirectional reinforced materials constructed from unidirectional layers, provided such laminates are symmetrical;

NOTE 3 Materials with completely or mainly unidirectional reinforcements are covered by ISO 527-5.

- finished products made from materials mentioned above.

The reinforcement fibres covered include glass fibres, carbon fibres, aramid fibres and other similar fibres.

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 527-1:2019, *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Part 1: General principles*

ISO 1268 (all parts), *Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of producing test plates*

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

ISO 16012, *Plastics — Determination of linear dimensions of test specimens*

3 Terms and definitions

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

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/>

3.1 gauge length

L_0

initial distance between the gauge marks on the central part of the test specimen

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in millimetres (mm).

Note 2 to entry: The values of the gauge length that are indicated for the specimen types in the different parts of ISO 527 represent the maximum relevant gauge length.

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.1]

3.2 thickness

h

smaller initial dimension of the rectangular cross-section in the central part of a test specimen

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in millimetres (mm).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.2]

3.3 width

b

larger initial dimension of the rectangular cross-section in the central part of a test specimen

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in millimetres (mm).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.3]

3.4 test speed

v

rate of separation of the gripping jaws

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in millimetres per minute (mm/min).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.5]

3.5 stress

σ

normal force per unit area of the original cross-section within the *gauge length* ([3.1](#))

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in megapascals (MPa).

Note 2 to entry: In order to differentiate from the true stress related to the actual cross-section of the specimen, this stress is frequently called “engineering stress”.

Note 3 to entry: σ for “1”-direction specimens is defined as σ_1 and for “2”-direction specimens as σ_2 (see [3.9](#) and [Figure 2](#) for definitions of these directions).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.6, modified — Domain “<engineering>” and Note 3 to entry has been added.]

3.5.1 strength

σ_m
maximum stress observed during a tensile test

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in megapascals (MPa).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.6.2]

3.6 strain

ε
increase in length per unit original length of the gauge

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed as a dimensionless ratio, or as a percentage (%).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.7]

3.6.1 strain at strength

ε_m
strain at which the *strength* ([3.5.1](#)) is reached

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed as a dimensionless ratio, or as a percentage (%).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.7.3]

3.7 tensile modulus modulus of elasticity under tension

E_t
slope of the stress/strain curve $\sigma(\varepsilon)$ in the interval between the two strains $\varepsilon_1 = 0,05 \%$ and $\varepsilon_2 = 0,25 \%$

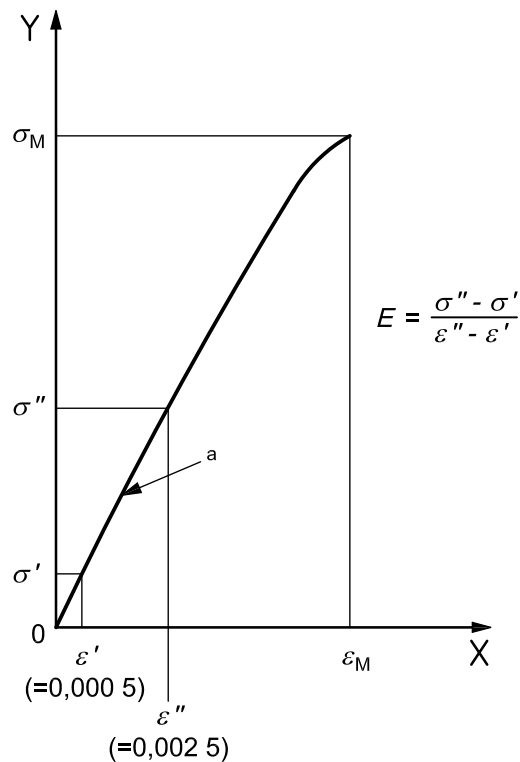
Note 1 to entry: It is expressed in megapascals (MPa).

Note 2 to entry: It may be calculated either as the chord modulus or as the slope of a linear least-squares regression line in this interval.

Note 3 to entry: This definition does not apply to films.

Note 4 to entry: See [Figure 1](#).

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.9]

**Key**

- X strain, ε
 Y stress, σ
 a slope E

Figure 1 — Stress-strain curve**3.8****Poisson's ratio** μ

negative ratio of the strain change $\Delta\varepsilon_n$, in one of the two axes normal to the direction of extension, to the corresponding strain change $\Delta\varepsilon_l$ in the direction of extension, within the linear portion of the longitudinal versus normal strain curve

Note 1 to entry: It is expressed as a dimensionless ratio.

Note 2 to entry: Since the lateral strain change $\Delta\varepsilon_n$ is a negative number and the longitudinal strain change $\Delta\varepsilon_l$ is positive, the Poissons ratio as defined in ISO 527-1:2019, 3.10 is a positive number.

[SOURCE: ISO 527-1:2019, 3.10]

3.9**specimen coordinate axes**

axes, where "1"-direction is normally defined in terms of a feature associated with the material structure or the production process, such as the length direction in continuous-sheet processes (see [Figure 2](#)) and the "2"-direction is perpendicular to the "1"-direction.

Note 1 to entry: The "1"-direction is also referred to as the 0° or longitudinal direction and the "2"-direction as the 90° or transverse direction. The "3"-direction is perpendicular to the plane of the "1"-direction and "2"-direction". The "3"-direction is also referred to as the "through-thickness" direction for planar systems.

Note 2 to entry: For unidirectional materials covered by part 5 of this International Standard, the direction parallel to the fibres is defined as the "1"-direction and the direction perpendicular to the fibres (in the plane of the prepreg/plate) as the "2"-direction.