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Standard

ISO 4892-3

**Plastics — Methods of exposure to
laboratory light sources —**

**Part 3:
Fluorescent UV lamps**

*Plastiques — Méthodes d'exposition à des sources lumineuses de
laboratoire —*

Partie 3: Lampes fluorescentes UV

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Contents		Page
Foreword.....		iv
1	Scope.....	1
2	Normative references.....	1
3	Terms and definitions.....	1
4	Principle.....	1
5	Apparatus.....	2
5.1	Laboratory light source.....	2
5.2	Test chamber.....	5
5.3	Radiometer.....	6
5.4	Control of temperature.....	6
5.5	Wetting.....	6
5.5.1	General.....	6
5.5.2	Condensation and water spray system.....	7
5.6	Control of humidity.....	7
5.7	Specimen holders.....	7
5.8	Apparatus to assess changes in properties.....	7
6	Test specimens.....	8
7	Test conditions.....	8
7.1	Radiation.....	8
7.2	Temperature.....	8
7.3	Condensation and spray cycles.....	8
7.4	Cycles with dark periods.....	8
7.5	Sets of exposure conditions.....	8
8	Procedure.....	10
8.1	General.....	10
8.2	Mounting the test specimens.....	10
8.3	Exposure.....	10
8.4	Measurement of radiant exposure.....	11
8.5	Determination of changes in properties after exposure.....	11
9	Test report.....	11
Annex A (normative) Relative irradiance of typical fluorescent UV lamps.....		12
Annex B (informative) Condensation type device.....		16
Annex C (informative) Climatic chamber type device.....		17
Annex D (informative) Alternative test cycles.....		18
Bibliography.....		19

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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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 6, *Ageing, chemical and environmental resistance*, 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 fifth edition cancels and replaces the fourth edition (ISO 4892-3:2016), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- clarification that two fundamentally different types of test chambers exist added (e.g. in [5.2](#), [5.4](#), new Annexes);
- [Table 4](#) has been split into two separate tables for the different types of test chambers, [Table 4](#) applies to condensation type devices and [Table 5](#) to climatic chamber type devices;
- new [Annex B](#) “Condensation type device”, [Annex C](#) “Climatic chamber type device” and [Annex D](#) “Alternative test cycles” have been added;
- reference to CIE 85 has been updated to CIE 241;
- combination of different UV fluorescent lamps have been deleted;
- mandatory [Clause 3](#) “Terms and definitions” has been added and subsequent clauses have been renumbered;
- lamp type designations 1A, 1B, 2 have been deleted.

A list of all parts in the ISO 4892 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.

Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources —

Part 3: Fluorescent UV lamps

1 Scope

This document specifies methods for exposing plastic specimens to fluorescent UV lamp radiation, heat and water in apparatus designed to simulate the weathering effects that occur when plastic materials are exposed in actual end-use environments to global solar radiation, or to window-glass filtered solar radiation.

Fluorescent UV lamp exposures for paints, varnishes and other coatings are described in ISO 16474-3.

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 4582, *Plastics — Determination of changes in colour and variations in properties after exposure to glass-filtered radiation, natural weathering or laboratory radiation sources*

ISO 4892-1, *Plastics — Methods of exposure to laboratory light sources — Part 1: General guidance*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 4892-1 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/>

4 Principle

4.1 General guidance is given in ISO 4892-1. Following the manufacturer's recommendations for lamp maintenance and/or rotation, fluorescent UV lamps are used to simulate the spectral irradiance of global solar radiation in the short wavelength ultraviolet (UV) region of the spectrum.

4.2 Specimens are exposed to various levels of UV radiation, heat and moisture (see [4.4](#)) under controlled environmental conditions.

NOTE Specimen preparation and evaluation of the results are covered in other International Standards for specific materials.

4.3 The exposure conditions are varied by selection of the following:

- a) type of fluorescent UV lamp;
- b) irradiance level;

- c) temperature during the UV exposure;
- d) type of wetting (see [4.4](#));
- e) wetting temperature and cycle;
- f) timing of the UV/dark cycle.

4.4 Wetting is usually produced by condensation of water vapour on to the exposed specimen surface or by spraying the test specimens with demineralized/deionized water.

4.5 The procedure(s) can include measurement of the irradiance and the radiant exposure in the plane of the specimen.

4.6 It is recommended that a similar material of known performance (a control) be exposed simultaneously with the test specimens to provide a standard for comparative purposes.

4.7 Intercomparison of results obtained from specimens exposed in different types of apparatus as per [Annex B](#) and [Annex C](#) or to different types of lamps should not be made unless an appropriate statistical relationship has been established between the different types of equipment for the material to be tested.

5 Apparatus

5.1 Laboratory light source

5.1.1 Fluorescent UV lamps are fluorescent lamps in which radiant emission in the ultraviolet region of the spectrum, i.e. below 400 nm, makes up at least 80 % of the total light output. The UV fluorescent lamps used shall conform with the requirements of [Annex A](#). There are three types of fluorescent UV lamp used in this document.

- **UVA-340 fluorescent UV lamp:** these lamps have a radiant emission below 300 nm of less than 1 % of the total radiation output, have an emission peak at 343 nm, and are more commonly identified as UVA-340 for simulation of global solar radiation from 300 nm to 360 nm (see [Table 1](#)). [Figure A.1](#) is a graph of spectral irradiance from 250 nm to 400 nm of a typical UVA-340 fluorescent lamp compared to global solar radiation.
- **UVA-351 fluorescent UV lamp:** these lamps have a radiant emission below 310 nm of less than 1 % of the total radiation output, have a peak emission at 353 nm, and are more commonly identified as UVA-351 for simulation of the UV portion of window-glass filtered solar radiation (see [Table 2](#)). [Figure A.2](#) is a graph of spectral irradiance from 250 nm to 400 nm of a typical UVA-351 fluorescent UV lamp compared to window-glass filtered global solar radiation.
- **UVB-313 fluorescent UV lamp:** these lamps have a radiant emission below 300 nm that is more than 10 % of the total radiation output, have a peak emission at 313 nm, and are more commonly identified as UVB-313 (see [Table 3](#)). [Figure A.3](#) is a graph of the spectral irradiance from 250 nm to 400 nm of two typical UVB-313 fluorescent lamps compared to global solar radiation. UVB-313 lamps may be used only by agreement between the parties concerned. Such agreement shall be stated in the test report.

NOTE 1 UVB-313 lamps have a spectral distribution of radiation that peaks near the 313 nm mercury line and emits radiation below $\lambda = 295$ nm, which can initiate ageing processes that never occur in natural environments.

NOTE 2 The solar spectral irradiance for a number of different atmospheric conditions is described in CIE Publication No. 241. The benchmark global solar radiation used in this document is from CIE Publication No. 241, CIE-H1.

Different lamp types shall not be mixed.

5.1.2 Unless otherwise specified, UVA-340 fluorescent UV lamps shall be used to simulate the UV part of global solar radiation (see [Tables 4](#) and [5](#), method A). Unless otherwise specified, UVA-351 lamps shall be used to simulate the UV part of window-glass filtered solar radiation (see [Tables 4](#) and [5](#), method B). Refer to [Table 4](#) for condensation type devices and [Table 5](#) for climatic chamber type devices.

5.1.3 Fluorescent lamps age significantly with extended use. If an automatic irradiance control system is not used, follow the apparatus manufacturer's instructions on the procedure necessary to maintain the desired irradiance.

5.1.4 Irradiance uniformity shall be in accordance with the requirements specified in ISO 4892-1. Requirements for periodic repositioning of specimens when irradiance within the exposure area is less than 90 % of the peak irradiance are described in ISO 4892-1.

Table 1 — Relative ultraviolet spectral irradiance for UVA-340 lamps for global solar UV radiation (method A)^{a,b}

Spectral passband [λ = wavelength in nanometres (nm)]	Minimum ^c %	CIE 241, CIE-H1 ^{d,e} %	Maximum ^c %
$\lambda < 290$	—	0	0,1
$290 \leq \lambda \leq 320$	5,9	5,9	9,3
$320 < \lambda \leq 360$	60,9	40,4	65,5
$360 < \lambda \leq 400$	26,5	53,8	32,8

^a This table gives the irradiance in the given passband, expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance between 290 nm and 400 nm. To determine whether or not a specific UVA-340 lamp meets the requirements of this table, the spectral irradiance from 250 nm to 400 nm shall be measured. Typically, this is done in 2 nm increments. The total irradiance in each passband is then summed and divided by the total irradiance between 290 nm and 400 nm.

^b The minimum and maximum limits for UVA-340 lamps in this table are based on more than 60 spectral irradiance measurements with UVA-340 lamps from different production lots and of various ages^[1]. The spectral irradiance data are for lamps within the ageing recommendations of the manufacturer of the apparatus. As more spectral irradiance data become available, minor changes in the limits are possible. The minimum and maximum limits are at least three sigmas from the mean for all the measurements.

^c The minimum and maximum columns will not necessarily sum to 100 % because they represent the minima and maxima for the measurement data used. For any individual spectral irradiance distribution, the percentages calculated for the passbands in this table will sum to 100 %. For any individual UVA-340 fluorescent lamp, the calculated percentage in each passband shall fall within the minimum and maximum limits given. Test results can be expected to differ between exposures using UVA-340 lamps in which the spectral irradiance differs by as much as that allowed by the tolerances. Contact the manufacturer of the fluorescent UV apparatus for specific spectral irradiance data for the UVA-340 lamp used.

^d The data from CIE 241, CIE-H1 are the global solar irradiance on a horizontal surface for an air mass of 1,0, an ozone column of 0,34 cm at STP, 1,42 cm of precipitable water vapour, and a spectral optical depth of aerosol extinction of 0,1 at 500 nm. These data are provided for reference purposes only and are intended to serve as a target.

^e For the solar spectrum represented by CIE 241, CIE-H1, the UV irradiance (290 nm to 400 nm) is 11 % and the visible irradiance (400 nm to 800 nm) is 89 %, expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 290 nm to 800 nm.

Table 2 — Relative ultraviolet spectral irradiance for UVA-351 lamps for window-glass filtered solar radiation (method B)^{a,b}

Spectral passband [λ = wavelength in nanometres (nm)]	Minimum^c %	CIE 241, CIE-H1, plus effect of window glass^{d,e} %	Maximum^c %
$\lambda < 300$	—	0	0,2
$300 \leq \lambda \leq 320$	1,1	≤ 1	3,3
$320 < \lambda \leq 360$	60,5	33,1	66,8
$360 < \lambda \leq 400$	30,0	66,0	38,0

^a This table gives the irradiance in the given passband, expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance between 290 nm and 400 nm. To determine whether a specific UVA-351 lamp meets the requirements of this table, the spectral irradiance from 250 nm to 400 nm shall be measured. The total irradiance in each passband is then summed and divided by the total irradiance between 290 nm and 400 nm.

^b The minimum and maximum limits given in this table are based on 21 spectral irradiance measurements with UVA-351 lamps from different production lots and of various ages.^[1] The spectral irradiance data are for lamps within the ageing recommendations of the manufacturer of the apparatus. As more spectral irradiance data become available, minor changes in the limits are possible. The minimum and maximum limits are at least three sigmas from the mean for all the measurements.

^c The minimum and maximum columns will not necessarily sum to 100 % because they represent the minima and maxima for the measurement data used. For any individual spectral irradiance distribution, the percentages calculated for the passbands in this table will sum to 100 %. For any individual UVA-351 fluorescent lamp, the calculated percentage in each passband shall fall within the minimum and maximum limits given. Test results can be expected to differ between exposures using UVA-351 lamps in which the spectral irradiance differs by as much as that allowed by the tolerances. Contact the manufacturer of the fluorescent UV apparatus for specific spectral irradiance data for the UVA-351 lamp used.

^d The data from CIE 241, CIE-H1, plus the effect of window glass were determined by multiplying the data from CIE 241, CIE-H1 by the spectral transmittance of typical 3 mm-thick window glass (see ISO 16474-2). These data are provided for reference purposes only and are intended to serve as a target.

^e For the CIE 241, CIE-H1, plus window glass data, the UV irradiance from 300 nm to 400 nm is typically about 9 % and the visible irradiance (400 nm to 800 nm) is typically about 91 %, expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 300 nm to 800 nm.