



BSI Standards Publication

Compatibility of lubricants with synthetic male condoms

National foreword

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Compatibility of lubricants with synthetic male condoms

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matière synthétique*

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 157, *Non-systematic contraceptive and STI barrier prophylactics*.

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Introduction

Weakening of natural rubber latex is known to occur after contact with certain lubricants, particularly petroleum-based products with relatively low molecular weights.

Similarly, lubricants can affect condoms made from other materials.

This specification was developed to assist in developing methods for lubricant manufacturers to determine whether or not a particular personal lubricant or topical medicine has a significant effect on the tensile and airburst properties of condoms made from synthetic materials. It is also applicable to topical medicines and other chemicals that might come in contact with vulval, vaginal, oral or rectal tissues, and hence with condoms.

Strictly, the tests described in this document only show the compatibility of a specific lubricant with a specific condom relating to a suitable baseline product (lubricant/control). However, depending on the purpose of those tests, one can generalize the results to similar condoms or lubricants.

This test method does not determine the safety of either the test substance or the condom.

This test method is intended to determine if the tensile or airburst properties of the condom have been significantly affected by the test substance. It is generally assumed that materials that adversely affect the physical properties of the condoms to a material extent will cause additional failure in use, although that has not been determined clinically.

Some substances used as additional condom lubricants contain volatile fractions which may affect condom strength when they are first applied, but then evaporate rapidly. The condom's strength may (or may not) change again as a result. Depending on the duration of this effect, it may affect the condom's performance in use. Typical candidate substances that can transiently weaken a condom (depending on the condom material) include Cyclomethicone D5, lighter volatile fractions and phenyl trimethicone. Conversely, heavier volatile silicone fractions can be protective until they evaporate.

Condoms made from synthetic polyisoprene behave similarly to natural latex condoms, and may be tested according to ISO 19671.

