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BS 5422:2023



BSI Standards Publication

Thermal insulating materials for pipes, tanks, vessels, ductwork and equipment operating within the temperature range –40 °C to +700 °C – Method for specifying

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Contents

		Page
	Foreword	**v**
0	Introduction	1
1	Scope	1
2	Normative references	2
3	Terms and definitions	2
4	Application of this standard	3
5	General requirements	4
5.1	Physical characteristics	4
5.2	Installation requirements	5
5.3	Thermal conductivity	5
5.3.1	General	5
5.3.2	Composite insulation	5
5.3.3	Design value of thermal conductivity and thermal bridges	5
5.4	Temperature limitations	5
5.5	Thickness	6
5.6	Vapour barrier – Permeance requirements	6
	Table 1 — Maximum permitted water vapour permeance in relation to plant temperature at an ambient temperature of +20 °C (dry bulb)	7
5.7	Tests on physical properties	7
6	Refrigeration applications	7
6.1	Information to be supplied by the specifier	7
6.2	Physical characteristics	8
6.2.1	General	8
6.2.2	Fire performance	8
6.2.3	Water vapour barrier – Performance requirements	8
6.3	Insulation thickness – Protection against condensation and control of heat gain	8
	Table 2 — Minimum insulation thickness for refrigeration applications to control condensation and control heat gain on a high emissivity outer surface (0.90) with an ambient temperature of +20 °C and a relative humidity of 70%	9
	Table 3 — Minimum insulation thickness for refrigeration applications to control condensation and control heat gain on a low emissivity outer surface (0.05) with an ambient temperature of +20 °C and a relative humidity of 70%	10
	Table 4 — Minimum insulation thickness for refrigeration applications to control condensation and control heat gain on a high emissivity outer surface (0.90) with an ambient temperature of +25 °C and a relative humidity of 80%	11
	Table 5 — Minimum insulation thickness for refrigeration applications to control condensation and control heat gain on a low emissivity outer surface (0.05) with an ambient temperature of +25 °C and a relative humidity of 80%	12
7	Chilled and cold water applications	13
7.1	Information to be supplied by the specifier	13
7.2	Physical characteristics	13
7.2.1	General	13
7.2.2	Fire performance	13
7.2.3	Water vapour barrier – Permeance requirements	13
7.3	Insulation thickness	14
7.3.1	Protection against condensation	14

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Table 6 — Minimum insulation thickness for chilled and cold water pipes to control condensation on a high emissivity outer surface (0.9) with an ambient temperature of +25 °C and a relative humidity of 80% 15
Table 7 — TABLE NOT USED AND INTENTIONALLY BLANK 16
Table 8 — Minimum insulation thickness for chilled and cold water pipes to control condensation on a low emissivity outer surface (0.05) with an ambient temperature of +25 °C and a relative humidity of 80% 17
Table 9 — TABLE NOT USED AND INTENTIONALLY BLANK 18
Table 10 — Indicative thickness of insulation for cooled and chilled water systems to control heat gain – Low emissivity outer surfaces 19
Table 11 — Indicative thickness of insulation for cooled and chilled water systems to control heat gain – High emissivity outer surfaces 20
8 Central heating, air conditioning and direct hot water supply installations in non-domestic applications 21
8.1 Information to be supplied by the specifier 21
8.2 Physical characteristics 21
8.2.1 General 21
8.2.2 Fire performance 21
8.2.3 Water vapour barrier – Permeance requirements 22
8.2.4 Maximum and minimum service temperature 22
8.3 Insulation thickness 22
8.3.1 Minimum thickness of insulation to control condensation on ductwork carrying chilled air 22
8.3.2 Minimum thickness of insulation to control heat transfer through ducts 22
8.3.3 Minimum thickness of insulation to control heat loss from pipes 22
Table 12 — Minimum insulation thickness for condensation control on ductwork carrying chilled air in ambient conditions: indoor still air temperature +25 °C, relative humidity 80%, dew point temperature 21.3 °C 23
Table 13 — Indicative thickness of insulation for ductwork carrying warm air to control heat loss 23
Table 14 — Indicative thickness of insulation for chilled and dual-purpose ducting to control heat transfer 24
Table 15A — Base level thickness of insulation for non-domestic heating services to control heat loss – Low emissivity outer surfaces 24
Table 15B — Enhanced level thickness of insulation for non-domestic heating services to control heat loss – Low emissivity outer surfaces 25
Table 16A — Base level thickness of insulation for non-domestic heating services to control heat loss – High emissivity outer surfaces 26
Table 16B — Enhanced level thickness of insulation for non-domestic heating services to control heat loss – High emissivity outer surfaces 27
Table 17A — Base level thickness of insulation for non-domestic hot water service areas to control heat loss – Low emissivity outer surfaces 28
Table 17B — Enhanced level thickness of insulation for non-domestic hot water service areas to control heat loss – Low emissivity outer surfaces 28
Table 18A — Base level thickness of insulation for non-domestic hot water service areas to control heat loss – High emissivity outer surfaces 29
Table 18B — Enhanced level thickness of insulation for non-domestic hot water service areas to control heat loss – High emissivity outer surfaces 30
9 Central heating and hot water services for domestic applications, plus all district heating networks (secondary and tertiary) 31
Figure 1 — District heating system boundaries 31

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9.2 Physical characteristics 32
9.2.1 General 32
9.2.2 Fire performance 32
9.2.3 Vapour barriers – Permeance requirements 32
9.2.4 Maximum and minimum service temperature 32
9.3 Thickness for central heating and hot water pipes to limit heat losses 32
Table 19A — Base level thickness of insulation for domestic heating and hot water systems having low emissivity outer surfaces 33
Table 19B — Enhanced level thickness of insulation for domestic heating and hot water systems having low emissivity outer surfaces 33
Table 19C — Indicative thickness of insulation for district heating systems having low emissivity outer surfaces (secondary system) 34
Table 20A — Base level thickness of insulation for domestic heating and hot water systems having high emissivity outer surfaces 35
Table 20B — Enhanced level thickness of insulation for domestic heating and hot water systems having high emissivity outer surfaces 35
Table 20C — Indicative thickness of insulation for district heating systems having high emissivity outer surfaces (secondary system) 36
10 Process pipework and equipment applications 36
10.1 Information to be supplied by the specifier 36
10.1.1 General 36
10.1.2 Special service requirements 36
10.1.3 Basis on which thickness is to be determined 36
10.2 Physical characteristics 37
10.2.1 General 37
10.2.2 Fire performance 37
10.2.3 Water vapour barrier – Permeance requirements 37
10.3 Insulation thickness 38
10.3.1 Control of heat loss 38
10.3.2 Economic parameters 38
10.3.3 Other design criteria 38
Table 21 — Minimum insulation thickness for process pipework and equipment to control heat loss 39
Table 22 — Minimum insulation thickness to control the surface temperature of a non-metallic surface with a surface emissivity of 0.90 and design cold face temperature of 59 °C 42
Table 23 — Minimum insulation thickness to control the surface temperature of a metallic surface with a surface emissivity of 0.05 and design cold face temperature of 50 °C 44
Table 24 — Minimum insulation thickness to control the surface temperature of a non-metallic surface with a surface emissivity of 0.90 and design cold face temperature of 50 °C 46
Table 25 — Heat loss from bare surfaces calculated in accordance with BS EN ISO 12241:2008 (black steel pipes) 48
Table 26 — Heat loss from bare surfaces calculated in accordance with BS EN ISO 12241:2008 (copper pipes – commercial grade, scoured to a shine) 49
Table 27 — Heat loss from bare surfaces calculated in accordance with BS EN ISO 12241:2008 (copper pipes – oxidized) 50
11 Protection against freezing 51
11.1 Information to be supplied by the specifier 51
11.2 Insulation thickness 51
Table 28 — Minimum insulation thickness to protect steel pipes against freezing – Selected industrial process conditions 52

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Selected commercial and institutional conditions 53
Table 30 — Minimum insulation thickness to protect against freezing – Selected domestic cold water systems (12-hour period) 54
Table 31 — Minimum insulation thickness to protect against freezing – Selected domestic cold water systems (8-hour period) 55

Annex A **(informative) Underlying methodology** **56**
A.1 Determination of thicknesses for environmental insulation thickness for process pipework and equipment to control heat loss 56
A.2 Social cost of carbon 56
A.3 Calculation of heat loss 57
A.4 Implementation of methodology 57
Table A.1 — Variables assumed in development of methodology for process pipework tables 57
Table A.2 — Reference thermal conductivities of insulation 58

Annex B **(informative) Default values used in BS EN ISO 12241:2008 heat transfer calculations** **58**
B.1 General 58
B.2 Default data 58
Table B.1 — Surface emissivity (f) 59
Table B.2 — Default data for use in BS EN ISO 12241:2008 calculations 59

Annex C **(informative) Summary of criteria used to establish the tables** **60**
Table C.1 — Summary of criteria used to establish the tables 61

Annex D **(informative) Dimension of steel, copper and plastic pipes** **63**
Table D.1 — Outside diameter of steel pipe (from BS EN 10220) 63
Table D.2 — Outside diameter of copper pipe (from BS EN 1057) 63

Annex E **(informative) Definition of reaction to fire classes in accordance with BS EN 13501-1** **64**

Annex F **(normative) Method for assessing the system load for refrigeration pipework** **64**
F.1 Determination of total system heat gain 64
F.2 Determining the Coefficient of Performance (CoP) for the system 65
F.3 Assessing the distribution pipework load 65

Annex G **(informative) Calculation of economic insulation thickness** **66**
G.1 Principle 66
Figure G.1 — Economic thickness 67
G.2 Method of calculating economic thickness 67

Annex H **(informative) Non-standard pipe diameters** **68**
H.1 General 68
H.2 Non-standard steel and copper pipe diameters 68

Annex I **(normative) Calculations undertaken to show compliance with this standard** **69**

Bibliography **70**

Summary of pages
This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages I to VI, pages 1 to 74, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 June 2023. It was prepared by Technical Committee B/540/7, *Thermal insulation for equipment and industrial applications.* A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes BS 5422:2009, which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, and introduces the following principal changes.

- Tables have been revised with simplification in mind where possible. For example, higher thermal conductivity values for materials no longer supplied or very rarely used, have been removed. Thermal conductivity values in this edition are based on the most commonly used insulation materials at time of revision. All pipe sizes are indicated as “less than or equal to” values, which reduces the need for interpolation, and tends to increase the overall thermal efficiency of the targeted systems.
- Reaction to Fire is defined within this publication in terms of Euroclass, which is used in today’s Building Regulations documents and is the default in product marking. Euroclass Reaction to Fire gives a more comprehensive and clear definition of the behaviour of materials exposed to fire than the more limited legacy BS 476 based scope.
- The decision has been made to retain calculation methods on BS EN ISO 12241:2008, which have been superseded by those in BS EN ISO 12241:2022. An updated calculation tool is forecast for Q3 2023; the drafting panel agreed to minimize delays, publish this British Standard and put recalculations on hold for a later update.
- Table 7 and Table 9 are intentionally blank to preserve the existing table numbering. The table numbering is to be updated in a future revision.
- Enhanced insulation thicknesses have been captured from the legacy Energy Technology List/ Capital Allowances levels, and can be found in Table 15B, Table 16B, Table 17B, Table 18B, Table 19B, and Table 20B.
- District heating tables for secondary and tertiary systems have been added in Table 19C and Table 20C.
- Plastic pipes (single wall) are treated as having no insulative value of their own.
- In Wales, Approved Document L2A: New buildings other than dwellings and Approved Document L2B: Existing buildings other than dwellings were recently revised to a single volume - Approved Document L, Conservation of fuel and power; Volume 2: Buildings other than dwellings.

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The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. "organization" rather than "organisation").

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0 Introduction

In any single application for pipework and equipment, thermal insulation material can perform a variety of functions simultaneously, including:

a) conserve energy for both cooled and heated systems;

b) retard freezing of contents;

c) control condensation on refrigerated, chilled or cold surfaces;

d) protect personnel from exposure to extremes of surface temperature;

e) control process or service temperatures; and

f) limit effects of system on indoor building temperature.

Even within the range listed, consideration should be given to sub-sectors of these functions.

For example, energy conservation can be driven by two distinct considerations. The first, and more traditional, reason for seeking energy saving is to save cost. The second, and more recent, reason for seeking energy saving is to minimize carbon dioxide emissions from the associated power source. Although any insulation measure has desired effects in both of these areas simultaneously, the extent of insulation that can be justified varies with the comparative costs of energy on the one hand, and alternative costs of carbon dioxide emission abatement on the other. Since thermal insulation of pipework and equipment represents one of the most cost-effective ways available of limiting carbon dioxide emissions, this standard highlights a series of thicknesses within its core tables, which have been calculated in accordance with environmental principles as outlined in Annex A.

Although the tables provided in this standard offer a simple method of determining the minimum thickness levels, their use requires the basic information outlined in Clause **4** and, in some cases, additional information may be required. This specific information is outlined in the clauses pertaining to specific applications.

Where information such as the thermal conductivity of the chosen insulation material does not conform to the categories highlighted in the relevant tables, it is possible to interpolate between either columns or rows where the margin of error is not likely to be critical. For greater accuracy, and where the application parameters differ from those covered within the scope of a Table (e.g. different ambient air temperature), the specifier should calculate from first principles by using methods set out in BS EN ISO 12241 and the Annexes to this standard.

The default values for use in relation to this standard are given in Annex B, the criteria used to establish the tables are summarized in Annex C, and the standard diameters of pipes considered are given in Annex D.

1 Scope

This British Standard describes a method for specifying requirements for thermal insulating materials on pipes, tanks, vessels, ductwork and equipment for certain defined applications and conditions within the temperature range –40 °C to +700 °C. It also specifies some physical requirements for the insulating materials. It is intended for use by designers, specifiers, contractors and manufacturers of thermal insulation.

This British Standard does not apply to pipelines that are embedded underground, nor does it refer to the insulation of building construction. However, the standard does apply to any pre-insulated pipework other than buried/underground pipework.

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