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# Ergonomics of the thermal environment — Methods for the assessment of human responses to contact with surfaces —

Part 3: Cold surfaces

Ergonomie des ambiances thermiques — Méthodes d'évaluation de la réponse humaine au contact avec des surfaces —

Partie 3: Surfaces froides



Reference number ISO 13732-3:2005(E)

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#### Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

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

ISO 13732-3 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 159, *Ergonomics*, Subcommittee SC 5, *Ergonomics of the physical environment*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Throughout the text of this document, read "...this European Standard..." to mean "...this International Standard...".

ISO 13732 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Ergonomics* of the thermal environment — *Methods* for the assessment of human responses to contact with surfaces:

- Part 1: Hot surfaces
- Part 2: Human contact with surfaces at moderate temperature [Technical Specification]
- Part 3: Cold surfaces

For the purposes of this part of ISO 13732, the CEN annex regarding fulfilment of European Council Directives has been removed.

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## Foreword

This document (EN ISO 13732-3:2005) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 122 "Ergonomics", the secretariat of which is held by DIN, in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 159 "Ergonomics".

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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2006, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2006.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association, and supports essential requirements of EU Directives.

EN ISO 13732 consists of the following parts, under the general title "Ergonomics of the thermal environment - Methods for the assessment of human responses to contact with surfaces"<sup>1</sup>):

- Part 1: Hot surfaces;
- Part 3: Cold surfaces.

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1)</sup> Part 2: has been published as ISO Technical specification ISO/TS 13732-2:2001 Human contact with surfaces at moderate temperature.

### Introduction

This European Standard is a type B standard as stated in EN ISO 12100. The provisions of this document may be supplemented or modified by a type C standard.

NOTE For machines which are covered by the scope of a type C standard and which have been designed and built according to the provisions of that standard, the provisions of that type C standard take precedence over the provisions of this type B standard.

Working with unprotected hands is often inevitable in the cold operation when a precision task is demanded. However the contact of bare skin with cold surfaces reduces skin temperature, causing acute effects such as discomfort, pain, numbness or frostbite. In addition repeated cold exposures with severe cooling of the skin may induce non-freezing cold injury (possible damage of nerves or vessels). Although the existing international standards are at hand for the assessment of the cold hazards involved, no standard concerns the special problems of contacting cold surfaces so far. Assessment of contact cooling is thus considered necessary.

To assess the risk of the cold injury, it is necessary to know the major factors affecting principally hand/finger cooling on cold surfaces. These factors involve:

- properties of the object surface;
- temperature of the cold surface and ambience;
- duration of contact between the skin and the surface;
- characteristics of hand/finger skin and the type and nature of the contact.

In practice, these factors are somewhat interacted and complicated. The type of contact material has an impact on the contact time at various cold temperatures. Thus, the contact time for the critical contact temperature limits on cold surfaces were empirically correlated with the major factors such as thermal penetration coefficient and surface temperature of the material, respectively. The statistically non-linear models (empirical models) based on the database of lower quartile (75 % protected) are able to estimate the finger/hand contact cooling of a large range of individuals on the cold surfaces.

This European Standard is designed to integrate all results obtained from the experimental research with both human fingers and an artificial finger. It outlines a guideline document for the specification of safe time limits of hand/finger contact with various cold surfaces.