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## Paper and pulp — Deinkability test for printed paper products

*Papier et pâte à papier — Essai de désencrabilité des produits en papier imprimés*



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## 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](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

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. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

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](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*.

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](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

## Introduction

The types and sources of paper for recycling are manifold. The most significant grades by volume are packaging products from industry, trade and households, followed by graphic papers from households and to a lesser extent from offices. These papers are blends of a variety of individual products. Typical blends of graphic paper for recycling recovered from households contain many different products printed on papers with a high content of wood-containing pulp fibres and a lesser share of woodfree pulp fibres. Graphic paper for recycling originating from printing and converting operations is typically rather pure and may contain just one type of paper (wood-containing or woodfree). Paper for recycling from printing and converting, as well as special grades, constitute only a minor share of the total volume of paper for recycling. Special grades (e.g. liquid packaging or label stock release liners) sometimes require specific treatments during recycling.

Deinking, the removal of ink from the substrate, is an important step in reprocessing graphic paper for recycling to new paper. A wide variety of papers are produced entirely or partially from deinked pulp and these include:

- graphic papers (of different quality levels);
- hygienic papers (such as toilet paper, hand and kitchen towels);
- white top layers of packaging paper and board.

Good deinkability of printed paper products is crucial for the sustainability of the graphic paper loop. The key process steps for deinking are the detachment of the ink film from the paper, ink fragmentation into a suitable size range and removal from the pulp slurry. Flotation deinking under alkaline conditions is the most widely used technology for ink removal in the paper recycling process. A wider range of the process pH may be utilised for separately collected printed products on predominantly woodfree substrates.

A simplified method herein has been developed to simulate the principle process steps for ink detachment and ink removal under standardised alkaline conditions at a laboratory scale. This gives an indication on how print products will perform in an industrial deinking operation. The method defined in this document is based on INGEDE Method 11. When the first version of INGEDE Method 11 was published, the deinking industry was predominantly using wood-containing raw material. INGEDE Method 11 is widely used by the paper industry and by many stakeholders in the paper value chain. The method is not designed to model additional or alternative process steps, such as dispersing, post-flotation, washing and bleaching. Cleaning and screening stages, which are designed to remove impurities and unwanted materials in the industrial process, are also not included in this method. An alternative deinking test method with near-neutral or neutral flotation conditions may be suitable for paper products mainly consisting of woodfree pulp fibres. However, the near-neutral or neutral flotation conditions are not within the scope of this document.

In most cases, the industrial flotation deinking process is designed and operated to remove a variety of inks and toners. Alkaline pulping conditions and fatty acid based collectors are widely used. However, fatty acid based collector chemistry is not singly used in industrial deinking processes in soft water areas. Assessments based on this laboratory scale method give an indication of how the tested print product will perform in a full-scale alkaline flotation deinking plant, but it will not necessarily provide the same absolute result. An example of this type of relation is given by INGEDE Method 11<sup>[3]</sup> and the Deinking Scorecard of the European Paper Recycling Council<sup>[4]</sup>.